JESS YUSON

JETTING into the Naia on Wednesday is Jet Li, the martial arts superstar. He's reportedly here for a commercial shoot in Boracay for a leading product. Flanked by bodyguards, he was spirited off to a five-star hotel. He'll reportedly be here for 10 days.

WORLD / A22

China closes 180 food makers found using formaldehyde

WORLD / A21

Superstar wrestler strangled wife, son, hanged self, say cops

ACROSS / A16

Bossi kidnappers demand P15M in ransom, says MILF leader

BUSINESS / B1

Call centers reeling from strong peso, eye tax subsidies from gov't

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, June 28, 2007 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 200 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Too much doc talk bad for patients, says study

WASHINGTON—TOO much personal talk by doctors can be bad medicine, according to a study published on Monday in which US researchers sent actors posing as new patients

TOO MUCH/ A9

E... DI NAMAN NAKIKINIG ANG PASYENTE

Migz wins Maguindanao; Koko pins hope on SC ruling

HIGH 5 AT HIGH COURT: Chief Justice Reynato Puno allows a private moment for ex-Sen. Ralph Recto and wife Vilma Santos after he administered her oath as Batangas governor. Sen. Noynoy Aquino takes his oath before Associate Justice Adolf Azcuna with mom Cory. ERIK ARAZAS

By Nikko Dizon, Jerome Aning and Leila B. Salaverria, *in Manila* **and Edwin Fernandez** *Inquirer Mindanao*

IN A BATTLE THAT DRAGGED ON for more than six weeks, Team Unity's (TU) Juan Miguel Zubiri last night bolted ahead of Genuine Opposition's (GO) Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III after beating him by some 128,000 votes in an unofficial tally of Maguindanao results, which—if confirmed by the Commission on Elections—would give Zubiri the 12th and last Senate seat.

Results of the recanvassing of the municipal certificates of canvass (CoCs) from Maguindanao's 22 towns gave Zubiri a provincewide total of 195,823 votes against Pimentel's 67,111.

Before the recanvass, Pimentel was leading Zubiri by more than 111,000 votes.

The results were posted outside the provincial capitol, venue of the three-day counting by a special provincial board of canvassers (SPBOC). Comelec spokesperson James Arthur

MIGZ/ A17

Jonas mom accuses Esperon of coverup

She tags two Army officers in son's kidnap

By Margaux C. Ortiz

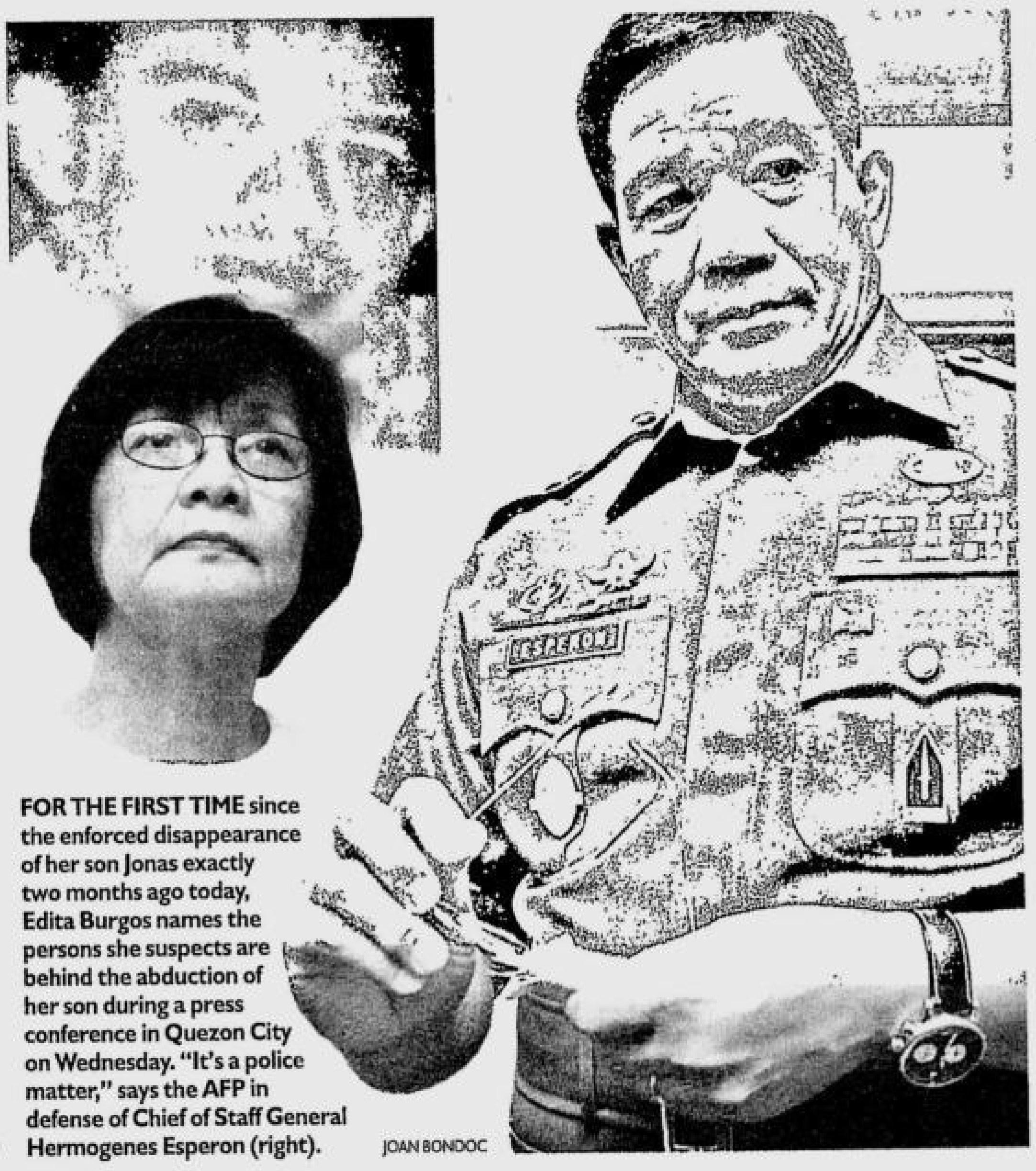
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE agriculturist Jonas Burgos went missing exactly two months ago today, his mother accused the Army of having abducted him, and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon of covering up the crime.

Edita Burgos said that while she had always held that "circumstantial evidence" pointed to military men as the ones who abducted Jonas in a Quezon City mall on April 28, Esperon's "unacceptable" refusal to give her a copy of the Army Provost Marshal's report on the investigation had convinced her of AFP involvement.

"I accuse the Army of having forcibly taken my son Jonas," the widow of the late freedom press icon Jose "Joe" Burgos, said yesterday at a press conference in Quezon City.

She added: "I am the mother of a *desa-*

JONAS/ A8



FOR THE FIRST TIME since the enforced disappearance of her son Jonas exactly two months ago today, Edita Burgos names the persons she suspects are behind the abduction of her son during a press conference in Quezon City on Wednesday. "It's a police matter," says the AFP in defense of Chief of Staff General Hermogenes Esperon (right). JOAN BONDOC

PNP: Where's arrest order on Bedol?

By Charlie Señase, *Inquirer Mindanao,* **and Jerome Aning,** *in Manila*

COTABATO CITY—"BUT WHERE is the arrest order?"

This was the question raised yesterday by Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), in the wake of a Commision on Elections announcement in Manila that the poll body had ordered the arrest of its Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol.

Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer said Bedol had been ordered arrested for contempt after repeatedly ignoring summons to explain the disappearance of crucial municipal vote tallies from his office in Shariff Aguak town.

Ferrer even said that any citizen could haul Bedol, using the

PNP/ A17

Ermita: GMA not liable for military's leftist slays

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO cannot be held liable for the killing of leftist activists by members of the military under the doctrine of command responsibility, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

According to Ermita, command responsibility applies to military officers who are two ranks higher than their subordinates who committed the crime.

Ermita stated Malacañang's position on the matter ahead of a summit scheduled on July 16-17 by the Supreme Court to find ways on how the judiciary can help stem the tide of extrajudicial killings involving leftist activists and members of the media.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno,

ERMITA/ A7

WWF: Business leads going green campaign

By DJ Yap

MORE THAN POLITICIANS, IT IS BUSINESS leaders who are seen rising to the global challenge of mitigating the impact of climate change, a leading environmentalist from the World Wide Fund for Nature said Monday.

From a purely business perspective, going green makes sense, Greg Bourne, WWF Australia's chief executive officer, said.

"It will actually be companies that will drive the issue of global warming forward," he said in a presentation before business leaders and environmentalists at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

"Politicians can drive some things but they primarily have to be thinking about voters. But in businesses, we're looking at the opportunities along with the threats," Bourne said.

For businesses to survive and thrive, they have to look into the future, he told an audience that included INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez.

More and more businessmen and women are seeing the threats posed by

WWF/ A17

GMA reappoints CA's 12 bypassed Cabinet members

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

A FIRST: President Arroyo is the first Asian leader to address Equatorial Guinea's unicameral House of People's Representatives on Tuesday. Behind her are the House President and De Venecia.

By Michael Lim Ubac and Michelle V. Remo

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS reappointed the 12 Cabinet members who were not confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced yesterday.

The Cabinet members were deemed bypassed because their nominations were not approved by the commission before Congress adjourned on June 7.

The reappointment of the Cabinet members means that there will be no Cabinet revamp.

The revamp only applies to top officials of government corporations and financial institutions, and virtually everyone holding appointive positions in government except the Cabinet, Ermita said at his regular

GMA REAPPOINTS/ A17

NY-based rights group indicts military in political killings

By Christian V. Esguerra

A NEW YORK-BASED INTERNATIONAL organization of human rights advocates has released a strongly worded report which all but indicted the Arroyo administration for the spate of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines.

In its 88-page report titled "Scared Silent," the Human Rights Watch detailed the apparent failures of the government while outlining at least six ways which President Macapagal-Arroyo could do to address the problem.

The Human Rights Watch, an international association of more than 150 lawyers, journalists, academics, and country experts around the world, said

NY-BASED/ A8

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(25) (10) | (4) (6) (9) (4)
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers in the afternoon.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

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Shut up, Palace tells Rep. Teves

> "If he doesn't name names, it would only show that his accusations are baseless"
> **Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico**

MALACAÑANG HAS told outgoing Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves to ease up on his word war with members of the congressional Commission on Appointments whom he accused of operating an alleged extortion racket in the confirmation process of executive branch appointees.

Teves said "people from Malacañang" had called him but refused to name them.

"They asked me if I could stop because the accusations were getting worse," he said in a phone interview.

"I don't want to get involved anymore. I won't mention any names because [the matter] is confidential," he said.

But outgoing Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said the 87-year-old legislator "should finish what he started."

"If he doesn't name names, it would only show that his accusations are baseless," said Suplico, the lone opposition representative in the House contingent at the CA.

More lawmakers yesterday came out in the defense of the CA, a bicameral body made up of 12 members each from the Senate and the House, amid fresh allegations from an unnamed former education official.

Representatives Mauricio Domogan of Baguio, Eduardo Zialcita of Parañaque, and Monico Puentevella of Bacolod City challenged the unnamed source to come out in the open and substantiate his allegations.

The former education official told the INQUIRER on Tuesday that certain congressmen in the CA had demanded money from the Department of Education in exchange for the confirmation of former education secretaries Florencio Abad and Edilberto de Jesus.

"We challenge them to name names and show proof of their extortion allegations. They should put up or shut up," Puentevella said in a statement.

Domogan said Teves' exposé had become a "free-for-all ride for anyone who wants to be in the news."

"First, we have people accusing nameless congressmen in the CA and now, the accused is named yet the accusers remain in the shadows. What's next?" Domogan said.

Rep. Prospero Pichay yesterday said he would welcome a probe into the alleged extortion racket as he wanted to clear his name so he can return to private life.

Pichay, the outgoing Surigao del Sur congressman and head of the House contingent on the CA, said it was obvious that Teves was alluding to him as one of those who demanded money from his son, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who has yet to be confirmed by the CA.

In a press briefing yesterday, Pichay and Rep. Eduardo Veloso, another CA member, said Teves was "lying" and only wanted to get back at the CA for bypassing his son's confirmation.

Veloso denied that the CA asked money from the officials under scrutiny by the body.

Pichay also hit out at Domingo Panganiban, the chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, who claimed that CA members had asked for projects and favors from Cabinet officials seeking confirmation.

Pichay reiterated that it was normal for congressmen to ask for projects from Cabinet officials, saying it was part of their job as representatives of the people.

Panganiban, a former agriculture secretary, was "trying to get back at us because when he was bypassed, he did not get reappointed," Pichay said.

Pichay, who ran and lost in the Senate race last May, said he thought he was already out of the political limelight. But with Teves' allegations, he said he was willing to cut his vacation and face an investigation.

"I thought I would just fade away for awhile. You have not seen the last of Butch Pichay," he added. *Christian V. Esguerra and Kristine L. Alave*

ARMED Forces chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon (left) and Admiral Timothy J. Keating, Commander, US Pacific Command, shake hands after a news conference in Camp Aguinaldo Wednesday.

US willing to help RP troops in fight vs NPA

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE UNITED STATES VOWED yesterday to support Filipino troops in their fight against Islamic terrorist groups in Mindanao and said that it wouldn't mind helping out as well in the fight against Manila's other terrorist foe—the communist New People's Army (NPA).

At the conclusion of a meeting with military leaders on RP-US mutual defense and security interests in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, visiting US Pacific Command chief Admiral Timothy Keating said information sharing and the grant of more hardware was in the pipeline to sustain the offensive against priority targets Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah (JI)and "any organization designated as a terrorist organization by the government of the Philippines and the US."

Asked whether the US would consider the NPA in their cooperative efforts against terrorism, Keating said: "We're just right now focused on the Abu Sayyaf Group but if the government of the Philippines tells us that they need help on the New People's Army, we would consider and respond. So, yes."

The Abu Sayaff and its Indonesian ally JI are tagged as allies of the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden. Both Manila and Washington have also tagged the NPA as a terrorist group.

Keating, who earlier visited US and Filipino troops in Sulu, was at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday for the start of a two-day meeting of the RP-US Mutual Defense Board (MDB) and Security Engagement Board (SEB).

The Constitution bars US troops from engaging in actual combat but they can provide intelligence and technical support.

In a joint news conference with Keating, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., added that the meeting saw them updating and planning future joint activities to battle "both traditional and non-traditional threats."

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Minority solons adopt 'wait-and-see' attitude

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MINORITY BLOC IN THE House of Representatives is adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude in the face of the fierce rivalry for the Speakership between Speaker Jose de Venecia and Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said the opposition was waiting for who will come out in the contest which, by tradition would be resolved long before members of the incoming 14th Congress actually cast their votes.

In the meantime, he said the minority bloc was consolidating its numbers and selecting a "solo and compromise" candidate from at least four aspirants for the post of minority leader.

De Venecia's camp yesterday said the speakership race was over.

"The Speakership is no longer an issue because it's a done deal... for majority of House members. We are now moving forward, and the challenge we face is to consolidate the legislative agenda," said Deputy Speaker Eric Singson.

Rodriguez, who is the spokesperson of the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino, said the opposition was not "in combat mode. We're just waiting for what will happen between De Venecia and Garcia and then we'll move."

By Rodriguez's reckoning, the supporters of the losing contender would jump to the opposite side, so that the minority candidate would have even more numbers than the loser in the contest.

He said the choice for the minority candidate was a toss among himself, and Representatives Carlos Padilla of Nueva Vizcaya, Roilo Golez of Parañaque and Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan.

He said at an opposition caucus last Tuesday, in which 24 opposition congressmen were present, it was agreed that the bloc would field a common candidate.

He said the group also agreed to move for the amendment of the House rule prescribing that the second finisher in the speakership race automatically becomes minority leader.

Rodriguez said their proposal is to hold separate votes for the speaker, and majority and minority leaders.

Race for speakership just a numbers game—Ermita

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AS FAR AS MALACAÑANG IS concerned, the contest for the speakership is just a numbers game.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, in his press briefing yesterday, said President Macapagal-Arroyo is not taking sides as two allies—Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia—are headed for a showdown for leadership of the House of Representatives.

"We don't have to say that the President is abandoning anybody. The speakership row as well as the Senate (presidency) is a struggle for leadership. It's a numbers game," Ermita said.

Ermita's statement, hinting that the President is taking a neutral stance between De Venecia and Garcia, ran counter to the statement by Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson that Ms Arroyo has told some congressmen she is backing De Venecia.

Ermita reiterated that choosing their leader is an internal affair for the Senate and the House.

Ermita laughed off a question of whether the inclusion of De Venecia in Ms Arroyo's trip to Singapore and Equatorial Guinea was an indication that she has indeed anointed her long-time ally.

Ermita said De Venecia had to join the President's delegation during her five-day visit to the city-state as well as to the western African nation.

"Right now the President is on the plane coming from Equatorial Guinea and because the president cannot stay there for more than 24 hours, she had to leave behind Speaker de Venecia to do the chore of completing the state visit," Ermita said.

Antiterror law takes effect July 15

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9372, OR THE HUman Security Act better known as the antiterror law will take effect beginning July 15, Malacañang said yesterday.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC) will meet today to prepare for the implementation of the law.

The law defines and prescribes stiff penalties for acts of terrorism.

Ermita noted that the law, enacted amid pressures from the US and other allies of the Philippines concerned about the links between local terrorists and international terror networks, took a long time to approve because of the thorough scrutiny by senators.

RA 9372 defines terrorism as acts of "sowing and creating a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace, in order to coerce the government to give to an unlawful demand." Violators face imprisonment of up to 40 years.

Ermita clarified that the ATC will not implement the law. He said today's meeting would discuss the creation of a body that will do that task.

The other members of the ATC are Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales. *Juliet L. Javellana*

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Manila Water service upgrade in Taguig and Makati City

Manila Water will conduct service improvement projects which will cause temporary water supply interruption in the following portions of Taguig and Makati City:

Schedule: 12:01 a.m. to 5:01 a.m., Friday, June 29, 2007

Affected areas: Barangays Western and Lower Bicutan, Signal, Tañag, AFPOVAI 1 to 6, all in Taguig and barangays Pembo, Rizal, Dasmariñas and Forbes in Makati.

Manila Water Company is advising all residents of the said areas to store enough water to supply their needs during the interruption period.

Manila Water

We want to serve you better.

These service improvement projects are necessary to ensure safe and reliable water supply for our East Zone customers.

(PDI – June 28, 2007)

Broadband network deal not yet final, says Palace

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE $329.5-MILLION CONTRACT with China for the setting up of a national broadband network in the Philippines is not yet final, according to Malacañang.

The contract to supply equipment and services for a high-speed Internet system for government offices here, which was won by Chinese-based ZTE Corp., was still "conditional," said Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

The deal, signed in China last April 21 in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was still subject to review by the Department of Justice, Mendoza told reporters.

The Department of Finance also has to determine if the contract price is the prevailing market rate for the setting up of a state-of-the-art national broadband network, he said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told Palace reporters he did not think the contract was already finalized but admitted that he was "not competent to tell you the details."

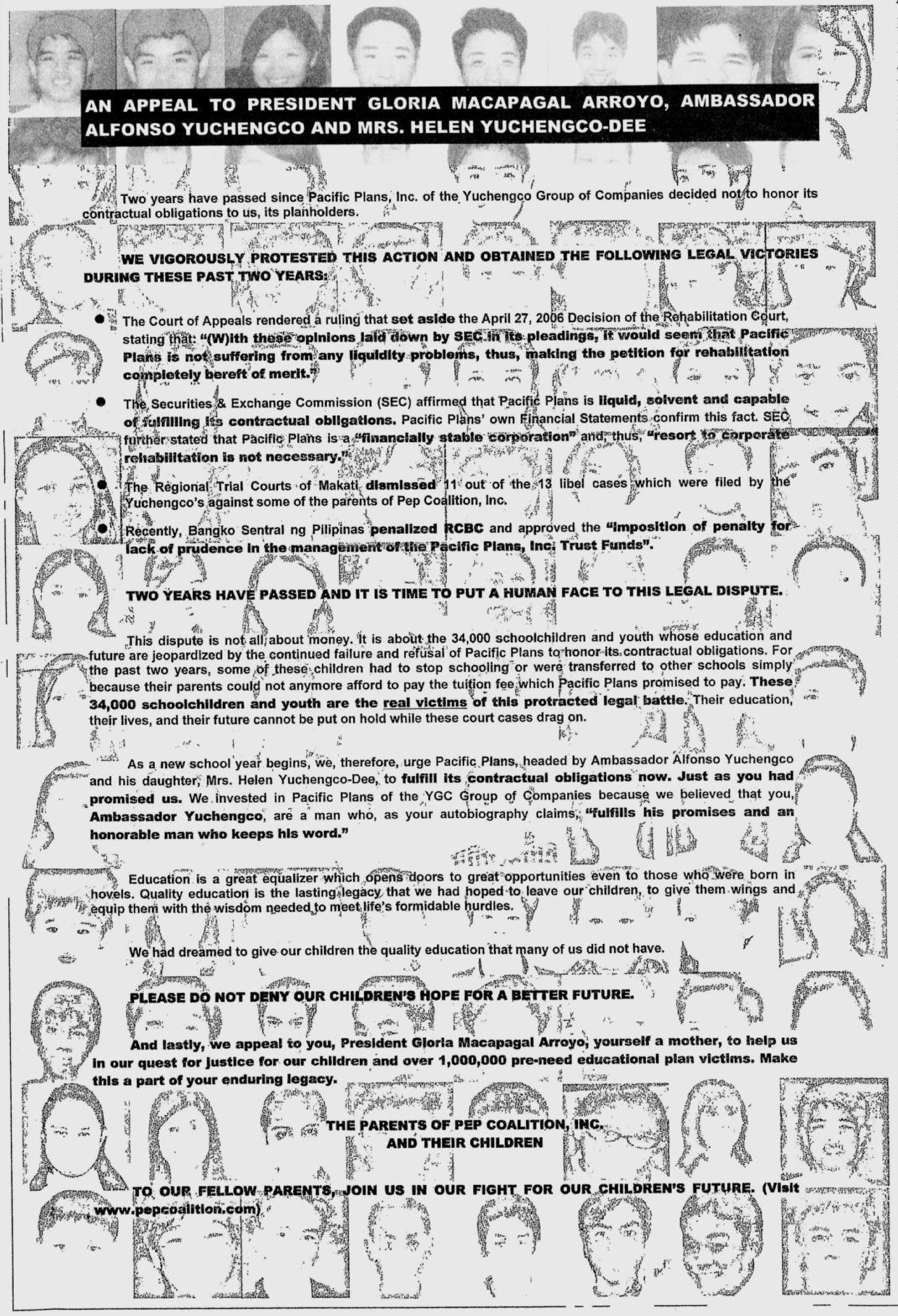
He said the matter was under the supervision of Mendoza as head of the Department of Transportation and Communications.

"All I know is that it is supposed to be a government-to-government contract. I'm not sure whether anything has been finalized, and therefore if there is nothing finalized, so nothing has been consummated," he said.

Mendoza said when he signed the five memorandums of agreements on the deal with ZTE vice president Yu Yong in Hainan, China, he understood that it was an executive agreement.

"The government-to-government deal is the direction that we took although the proponents wanted a BOT [build-operate-transfer arrangement]," he said.

The project, a 20-year deal covered by a loan from China, is designed to meet the telecommunications needs of national government agencies and local government units.



AN APPEAL TO PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, AMBASSADOR ALFONSO YUCHENGCO AND MRS. HELEN YUCHENGCO-DEE

Two years have passed since Pacific Plans, Inc. of the Yuchengco Group of Companies decided not to honor its contractual obligations to us, its planholders.

WE VIGOROUSLY PROTESTED THIS ACTION AND OBTAINED THE FOLLOWING LEGAL VICTORIES DURING THESE PAST TWO YEARS:

- The Court of Appeals rendered a ruling that **set aside** the April 27, 2006 Decision of the Rehabilitation Court, stating that: **"(W)ith these opinions laid down by SEC in its pleadings, it would seem that Pacific Plans is not suffering from any liquidity problems, thus, making the petition for rehabilitation completely bereft of merit."**
- The Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) affirmed that Pacific Plans is **liquid, solvent and capable of fulfilling its contractual obligations.** Pacific Plans' own Financial Statements confirm this fact. SEC further stated that Pacific Plans is a **"financially stable corporation"** and, thus, **"resort to corporate rehabilitation is not necessary."**
- The Regional Trial Courts of Makati **dismissed** 11 out of the 13 libel cases which were filed by the Yuchengco's against some of the parents of Pep Coalition, Inc.
- Recently, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas **penalized RCBC** and approved the **"imposition of penalty for lack of prudence in the management of the Pacific Plans, Inc. Trust Funds".**

TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED AND IT IS TIME TO PUT A HUMAN FACE TO THIS LEGAL DISPUTE.

This dispute is not all about money. It is about the 34,000 schoolchildren and youth whose education and future are jeopardized by the continued failure and refusal of Pacific Plans to honor its contractual obligations. For the past two years, some of these children had to stop schooling or were transferred to other schools simply because their parents could not anymore afford to pay the tuition fee which Pacific Plans promised to pay. **These 34,000 schoolchildren and youth are the real victims of this protracted legal battle.** Their education, their lives, and their future cannot be put on hold while these court cases drag on.

As a new school year begins, we, therefore, urge Pacific Plans, headed by Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco and his daughter, Mrs. Helen Yuchengco-Dee, to **fulfill its contractual obligations now. Just as you had promised us.** We invested in Pacific Plans of the YGC Group of Companies because we believed that you, **Ambassador Yuchengco**, are a man who, as your autobiography claims, **"fulfills his promises and an honorable man who keeps his word."**

Education is a great equalizer which opens doors to great opportunities even to those who were born in hovels. Quality education is the lasting legacy that we had hoped to leave our children, to give them wings and equip them with the wisdom needed to meet life's formidable hurdles.

We had dreamed to give our children the quality education that many of us did not have.

PLEASE DO NOT DENY OUR CHILDREN'S HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

And lastly, we appeal to you, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, yourself a mother, to help us in our quest for justice for our children and over 1,000,000 pre-need educational plan victims. Make this a part of your enduring legacy.

THE PARENTS OF PEP COALITION, INC.
AND THEIR CHILDREN

TO OUR FELLOW PARENTS, JOIN US IN OUR FIGHT FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE. (Visit www.pepcoalition.com)

Abu Sayyaf installs new leader

THE MILITARY SAID Wednesday that the militant Islamic group Abu Sayyaf, which has been blamed for the worst terrorist attacks in the country, had installed a new leader.

Yasser Igasan, in his 40s and a key fund-raiser for the group, was the new man in charge, replacing Khadaffy Janjalani, who was killed in a gun battle with government forces late last year, said Brig. Gen. Ruperto Pabustan.

Janjalani was killed on the island of Jolo. His key lieutenant Abu Sulaiman was killed soon afterward, leaving the Abu Sayyaf leaderless.

"When Janjalani and Sulaiman were still alive, he (Igasan) went abroad to secure funding for the Abu Sayyaf," Pabustan told reporters.

"He went to countries like Afghanistan and Indonesia, where the al-Qaida and (Osama) bin Laden were established," the general added. "He is not a warrior, he handled finances."

Small pockets of US soldiers have been operating on Jolo to provide intelligence backup to Pabustan's men.

Washington and Manila have linked the Abu Sayyaf to Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The Abu Sayyaf was blamed for the firebombing of a ferry on Manila Bay in 2004 that claimed more than 100 lives, and the kidnapping and killings of two US tourists in 2001 and 2002. *AFP*

Oncology Society sets annual gab

THE PHILIPPINE radiation Oncology Society will present "Updates in Pediatric Radiation Oncology" for its 2007 annual convention which will be held on June 30, 2007 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza.

This year's meeting will focus on the multidisciplinary management of commonly encountered pediatric oncology tumors.

Invited faculty will be sharing their expertise in the surgical, medical and radiotherapeutic management of these entities.

For inquiries, call the Philippine College of Radiology Secretariat at 373-8462 or 374-3299.

ECC issued to Taal spa job suspended

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL Resources Secretary Angelo T. Reyes yesterday suspended the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) issued to the controversial Taal Island Spa Resort which set up shop right along the crater of the famed volcano in Talisay, Batangas.

"The project [itself] is noncritical. But since it is located in a critical area, it is subject to more stringent requirements to ensure that the pristine condition of the Taal Island Volcano is preserved," Reyes said in a statement.

Reyes issued the suspension order after his visit yesterday to Taal to personally inspect the Korean-owned resort and talk to residents.

For the moment, the move freezes the controversial project which is supported by many local officials in the area.

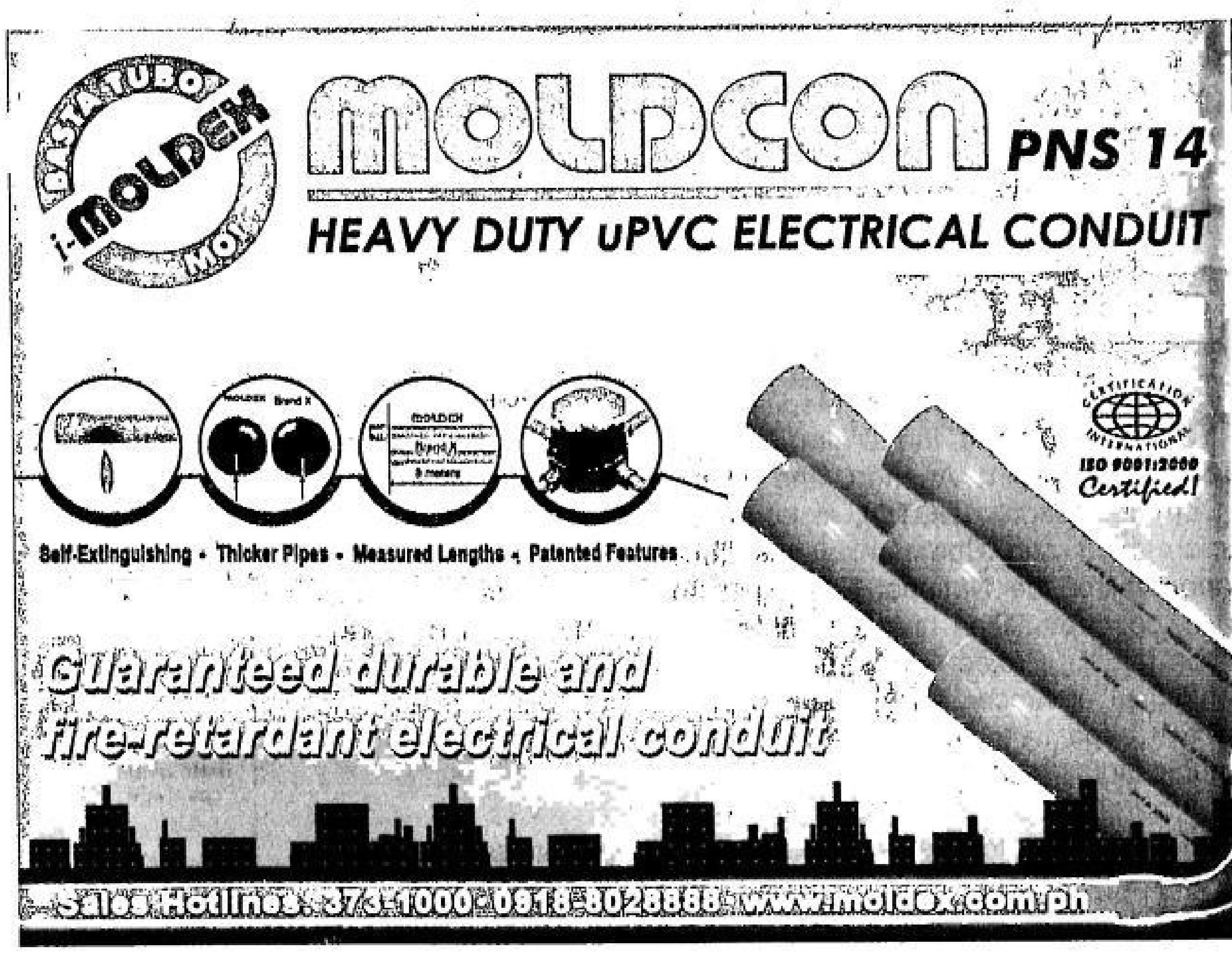
According to Reyes, the project, owned by Jung Ang Interventure Corp., was found to have violated at least seven of the conditions stated in its ECC. The ECC was issued on Nov. 8, 2005.

The biggest violation of the company was the construction of an access road, which was not declared in its ECC, he said.

Reyes added that the company also violated Condition No. 2, which states that the company must secure all appropriate clearances and necessary permits from the appropriate government agencies and concerned local government units.

What Jung Ang was able to secure were certificates and not "clearances" from these agencies, Reyes explained.

Amy R. Remo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PNP set to file charges against gun smugglers

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) is set to file charges against unscrupulous firearms dealers and police personnel involved in smuggling guns to Taiwan last year.

PNP Firearms and Explosives Division (FED) director Chief Superintendent Florencio Caccam did not identify those who would be charged, but said these would include legitimate gun dealers, their employees, some "fixers" in the FED, and some police personnel.

Caccam also did not say what charges would be filed against the suspects. But he said that if proven guilty the gun dealer can lose his permit to sell firearms from the FED.

Caccam told reporters the other day they have finished their investigation into the incident.

"The investigation is finished and the cases are ready to be filed. But we cannot do so (file the case) because we lack a vital requirement which is the body of the crime, or the actual firearms," Caccam said.

He said he has sent his men to Taiwan to take pictures and macro-etchings of the smuggled guns and include the information in their testimony in court once the cases are filed.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, June 28, 2007
12th Week in Ordinary Time
Irenaeus

1st Reading: Gen 16:1-12, 15-16 (or 16:6b-12, 15-16)
Gospel: Matthew 7:21-29

Jesus said to his disciples, "Not everyone who says to me: Lord! Lord! will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my heavenly Father. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not speak in your name? Did we not cast out devils and perform many miracles in your name?' Then I will tell them openly: 'I have never known you; away from me, you evil people!'

"So, then, anyone who hears these words of mine and acts accordingly is like a wise man, who built his house on rock. The rain poured, the rivers flooded, and the wind blew and struck that house, but it did not collapse because it was built on rock. But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not act accordingly, is like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain poured, the rivers flooded, and the wind blew and struck that house; it collapsed, and what a terrible fall that was!"

When Jesus had finished this discourse, the crowds were struck by the way he taught, because he taught with authority unlike their teachers of the Law.

Commentary

Sarai, Abram's wife is impatient for a child too and she takes matters into her own hands. She resorts to an ancient law and offers her slave Hagar (a gift from Abram to her in Egypt) to gain a child through her relations with him. Once Hagar, a black slave woman, becomes pregnant, she knows the power that she has and begins using it. Sarai is enraged and ends up blaming Abram. Abram is no better than Sarai saying, "She is in your power, do to her whatever you please." And Sarai is so abusive that Hagar runs from her. Not a pretty picture of our father in faith and his wife. These people were just like us, though called to be the people of God. Do we act more like them in their abusiveness and wanting to make things happen under our power than in any response in faith?

We find that Hagar is our mother in faith. She sees God and is given the same promise given to Abram. She is told to return. God hears her, and cares for her and her descendents. Our mother in faith is Hagar, the woman who is considered to be the mother of Islam and we share the same father in faith, Abram.

Jesus reminds us that all are welcome in his kingdom but only those who actually practice what we believe, beyond the words and posturing will actually know the kingdom in their lives.

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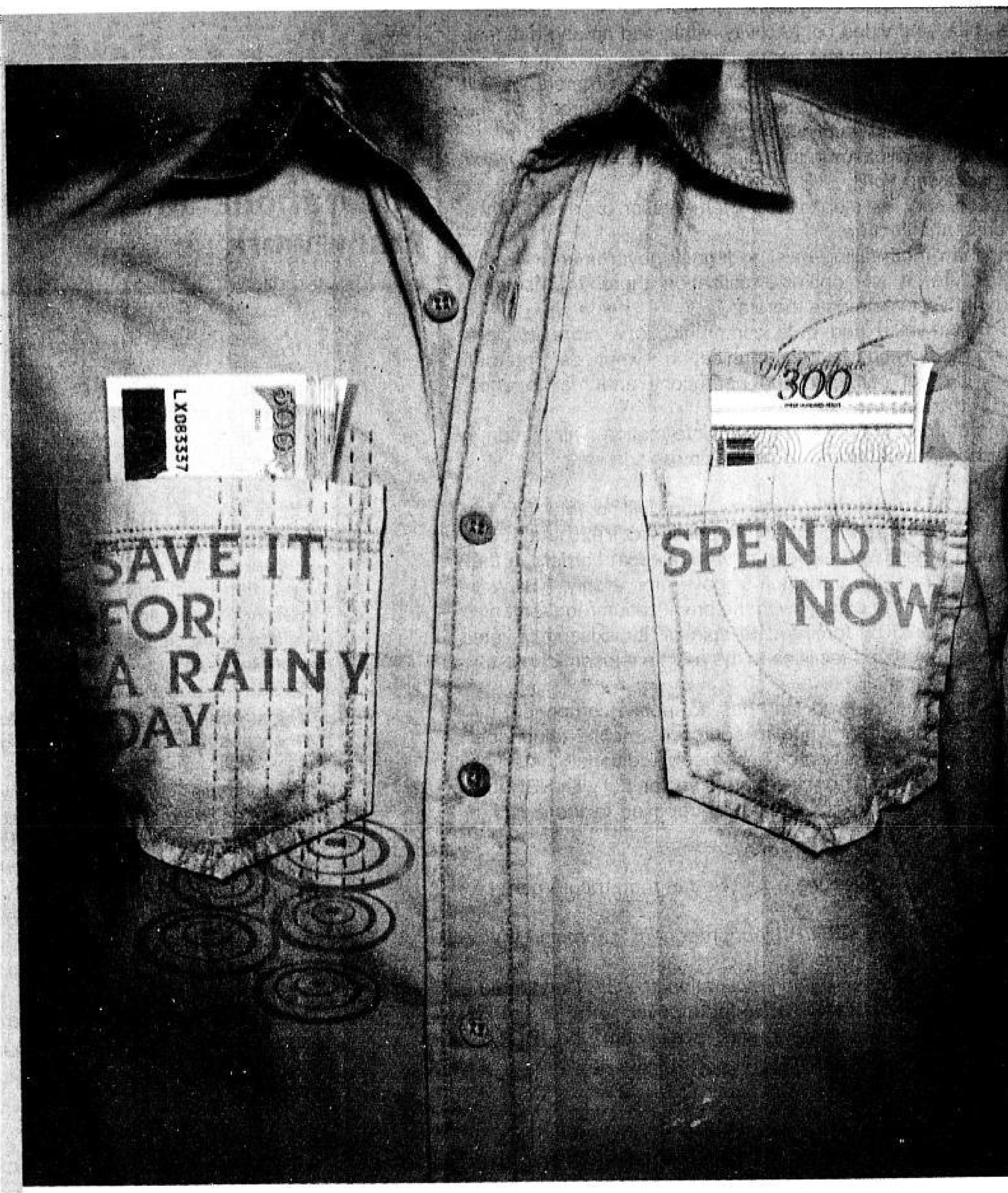

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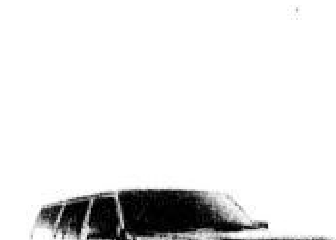

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SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK (NBN) PROJECT OF DOTC

Pursuant to the mandate of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (2004–2010) and the Digital Infrastructure component of the President's Ten-Point Agenda, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), in cooperation with the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) and with the approval of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), conceptualized and will implement the National Broadband Network (NBN) Project. It is time that the government avail of technological advances and pursue a project that will increase and improve its capacity to service the nation through effective and efficient communication.

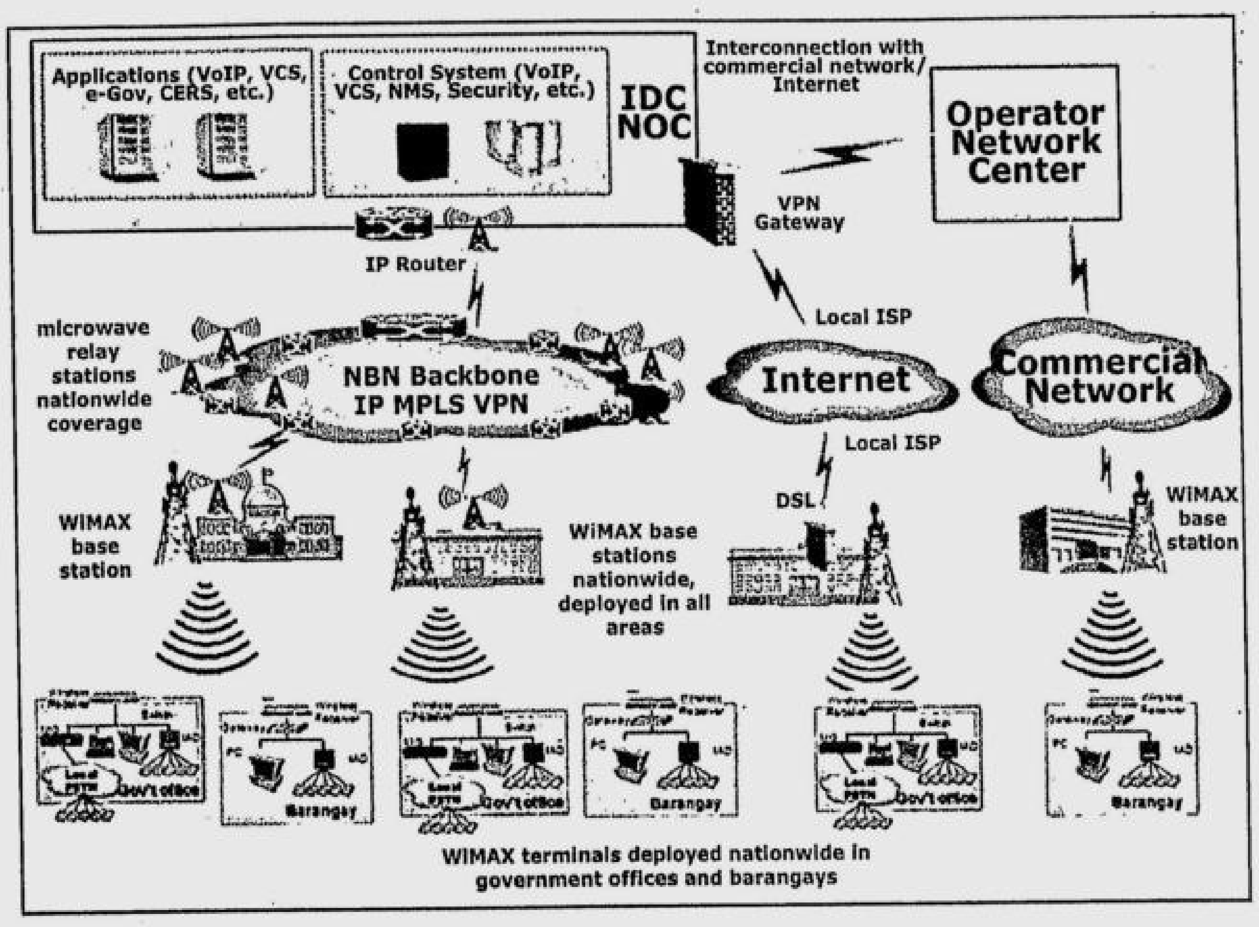
It is our privilege to let the public know truths in summary about the NBN.

1. NBN is highly favourable to the Government of the Philippines because of the following reasons:
    a. It will build a fully integrated, single Internet Protocol (IP)-based platform, nationwide broadband network to allow seamless voice, data, and video connectivity within and among national, regional, and local government agencies;
    b. As a common information pipeline for government, it will marshall the information technology (IT) resources of the government, avoid duplication of systems, and host all e-government applications, including the adoption of NDD and IDD cost saving VoIP;
    c. It is a necessary first step to the implementation of government's enterprise architecture;
    d. Rather than mothballing existing legacy government telecom infrastructure, it will optimize utilization thereby preserving government's investments therein;
    e. It will make voice and data communications more efficient resulting in savings in communication expenses, internet access, intranet capacity, and operations and maintenance (O&M) in the long run.
    f. Government communications and information will become more accessible but at the same time more secure.

2. NBN will be a government network and will purely be for government-use-only as allowed by Republic Act 7925. As such, NBN will not compete with existing private telecom carriers in the private arena. In fact, the transition to government only, NBN will allow the government to comply with the privatization requirements of Republic Act 7925 by forcing it to spin off its existing private subscribers and unutilized facilities to the private telecom carriers.

3. As the NBN is a fixed network and has no mobile component by design, government will continue to source its mobile telephone requirements from the private mobile carriers. Additionally, internet access will still be sourced from the private sector, but with NBN the sourcing will be on a wholesale basis as opposed to the existing retail pricing.

4. Proper and legal procedures were followed in the procurement of the NBN project.
    a. ZTE Corporation, the NBN Project proponent, submitted their proposal July 2006.
    b. After the appropriate review and evaluation, the CICT endorsed the NBN Project proposal to NEDA for appoval.
    c. After the appropriate review and evaluation, the DOTC endorsed the NBN Project proposal to NEDA for approval.


Applications (VoIP, VCS, e-Gov, CERS, etc.)
Control System (VoIP, VCS, NMS, Security, etc.)
IDC NOC
Interconnection with commercial network/ Internet
Operator Network Center
VPN Gateway
IP Router
Local ISP
microwave relay stations nationwide coverage
NBN Backbone IP MPLS VPN
Internet
Commercial Network
Local ISP
DSL
WIMAX base station
WiMAX base stations nationwide, deployed in all areas
WIMAX base station
Gov't office
Barangay
Gov't office
Barangay
Gov't office
Barangay
WIMAX terminals deployed nationwide in government offices and barangays

The National Broadband Network Framework

    d. The NEDA Investment Coordination Committee reviewed and evaluated the NBN Project proposal and endorsed it to the NEDA Board for approval.
    e. The NEDA Board approved ZTE Corporation's NBN Project proposal in March 2007.
    f. As per agreement between the governments of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Philippines, the NBN Project will be financed by Export-Import Bank (Eximbank) of China under preferential terms of 3% annual interest and 20 year repayment period inclusive of 5 year grace.
    g. As a tied loan, the People's Republic of China is entitled to nominate the main contractor and it nominated ZTE Corporation. Such conditions imposed on tied loans dispensing with bidding requirements is sanctioned by Section 4 of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and the Foreign Borrowings Act.
    h. The NBN Project is not a BOT project subject to the BOT Law as it is, among other reasons, a government-to-government transaction.

5. ZTE's proposal is financially superior with a greater coverage and more advanced technology as it is more technically superior compared to other bidders.
    a. The cost of the Project is US $ 329 Million that corresponds to a nationwide coverage and connection of majority of government agencies. ZTE's proposal will connect a total of 25,844 Government offices (National Agencies, Provincial, Municipal, City and Barangay LGUs) upto the 5th and 6th class municipalities.
    b. ZTE's proposal includes managed services, extensive training and technology transfer.
    c. The technologies proposed to be used in the NBN Project are state-of-the-art, mature but at the early stages of product life thereby avoiding early obsolescence.

Comparative Evaluation of the Proposals for the National Broadband Network Project

Proponent	Amsterdam Holdings Incorporated	China Government through ZTE	ARESCOM
Objective	To establish a privately owned broadband and cellular network to provide cellular phone services while aiming at the Government to be the primary subscriber.	The objective of the proposal is to establish a telecommunication network for the Government of the Philippines to serve as platform of all ICT (e.g. VOIP, e-government) services that would enhance delivery of basic services and improve efficiency in Government administration. The project will upgrade the existing Government's telecom facilities into IP based network	To establish a satellite based network that will connect selected regional offices of the Government particularly the DILG and some LGUs.
Nature of Proposal	Build-Operate-Own (BOO)	Government-to-Government Agreement	Not Clear
Financial Capability of the Proponent	PhP625,000 paid-up capital	With total Asset amounting to RMB 23,070,124,000 as of September 2006 Largest Listed Hi-tech Company in China in Hongkong and Shenzhen Stock Exchange.	No information
Technical Capability	No telecom track record	Long track record in ICT development and with full financial backing by the Government of the Peoples Republic of China.	Wifi/DSL manufacturer No telecom system integration experience
Coverage	Covers only the 1st, 2nd and some 3rd class cities/municipalities.	Covers almost 100% of the Philippines, from 1st class to 6th class cities and municipalities, with the 300 WiMAX h base stations, each has a radius of 30 kms.	Covers only 21 selected regional centers.
Cost vs Deliverables	US$ 240M 87 Base Stations 500 Cell sites Note: *Government will have to buy its own cell phone units and VOIP terminals*	US$ 329M 145 Repeater Stations 30 IPMPLS VPN Network Nodes 300 Base Stations 25,844 CPEs with VoIP Terminals 1 IDC/NOC with back up	US$135M 21 Base Stations 83 CPEs Satellite Central Hub Station

By: Department of Transportation and Communications

Ermita: GMA not liable for military's …

From page A1

who disclosed the planned summit to INQUIRER editors and reporters last week, had said command responsibility might be used in determining whom to prosecute for the killings that continued to draw international outrage.

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The principle applies to AFP members when they are brought before the military court-martial, and when they are separated from service and prosecuted in civilian courts, he said.

It does not apply to Ms Arroyo, added Ermita, who was AFP vice chief of staff in 1988 and defense secretary in 2003.

Level of application

"Well, first of all, the President is the Commander in Chief, and there is such a thing as the level of application. From my understanding given to me by the generals, especially the chief of staff, it applies to the next … two ranks higher—for example, if you are a company commander, it applies to the battalion and brigade commanders," Ermita said.

He said the coverage depended on the findings of the immediate commander.

"So these things shall apply to military personnel. But I do not see how you can let it apply to the President, who happens to be the head of state. After all, the national leadership does not tolerate any such activities happening. And that's why we have investigations; we have bodies created by the President to look into these [killings]," he said.

Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26,on Tuesday said that under the doctrine of command responsibility, a commander "may be held criminally liable if he tolerated, failed to prevent, or played blind to extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances committed by his subordinates."

Pampilo also said the President, as Commander in Chief of the AFP, was covered by the doctrine but would be liable "only if he or she steps down from office."

The judge heads one of the 99 special tribunals designated by the Supreme Court to handle extrajudicial killings.

'Very, very strict'

At his press briefing, Ermita read pertinent portions of Esperon's directive to commanders of all the AFP major services, unified commands and military-wide support and separate units, as well as the AFP Provost Marshal General.

"So now what I'm trying to say … is [that] the military justice system is very, very strict in looking after offenses [by] people in uniform. That's why the men in uniform are governed by the Articles of War. All armed forces in the world are governed by their own military regulations and have their own Articles of War. and military justice system," Ermita said.

Esperon defined command responsibility as the "accountability or responsibility or answerability of the commander of a military force or unit for the acts of his men, inclusive of the authority to order, to direct, to prevent or control the acts of his men."

The directive states that a commander is "duty-bound to closely monitor, supervise, direct, coordinate and control the overall activities of his subordinates within his area of operations, and can and shall be held administratively accountable for neglect of duty in taking appropriate action to discipline his men."

It adds: "Any AFP officer shall be held accountable for neglect of duty under the doctrine of command responsibility if he has knowledge that a crime or offense shall be committed, is being committed, or has been committed by his subordinates, or by others within his area of responsibility and, despite such knowledge, he did not take preventive or corrective action either before, during, or immediately after its commission."

3 circumstances

According to Esperon's directive, a commanding officer is "presumed to have knowledge of the commission of irregularities or criminal offenses within his area of responsibility" under three circumstances—when the acts are widespread, when they are repeatedly or regularly committed, and when members of his immediate staff or office personnel are involved.

"The key word is if it is widespread, so that will fall under the principle of command responsibility," Ermita said.

The directive also states that commanders of erring military personnel shall be held accountable either for violation of Article of War 96 (conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman) or "as an accessory after the fact upon deliberate refusal or failure or neglect to act accordingly and decisively as required by existing AFP laws, regulations, directives or policies."

Asked if military commanders could be prosecuted for command responsibility in civilian courts, Ermita said: "You will notice that it is mentioned as appropriate when found that there is this command responsibility and these people are held accountable, that when they are separated they shall be turned over to appropriate civil authorities. So that will apply if there are any such personnel who will be found falling under this principle of command responsibility."

IN THE KNOW

Command responsibility in international law

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The principle was recognized even before World War II, but the focus back then was only on commanders' responsibility for issuing illegal orders.

The Yamashita case, heard at the end of the war by a US military commission in Manila, highlighted the responsibility of commanders to prevent their subordinates from committing crimes, and to punish subordinates who carried out unlawful acts.

The commission found Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, commanding general of the Japanese forces in the Philippines, guilty of war crimes committed by his subordinates, by virtue of command responsibility.

In 1977, Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions (treaties that call for the protection of victims of intense armed conflicts) formally codified the principle of command responsibility.

Article 86, Section 2 of the Protocol reads: "The fact that a breach of the Conventions of this Protocol was committed by a subordinate does not absolve his superiors from penal or disciplinary responsibility, as the case may be, if they knew or had information which should have enabled them to conclude in the circumstances at the time, that he was committing or was about to commit such a breach, and if they did not take all feasible measures within their power to prevent or repress the breach."

Article 87 enumerates the duties of commanders. But a United Nations report notes that the extent of commanders' duties remains "subject to interpretation."

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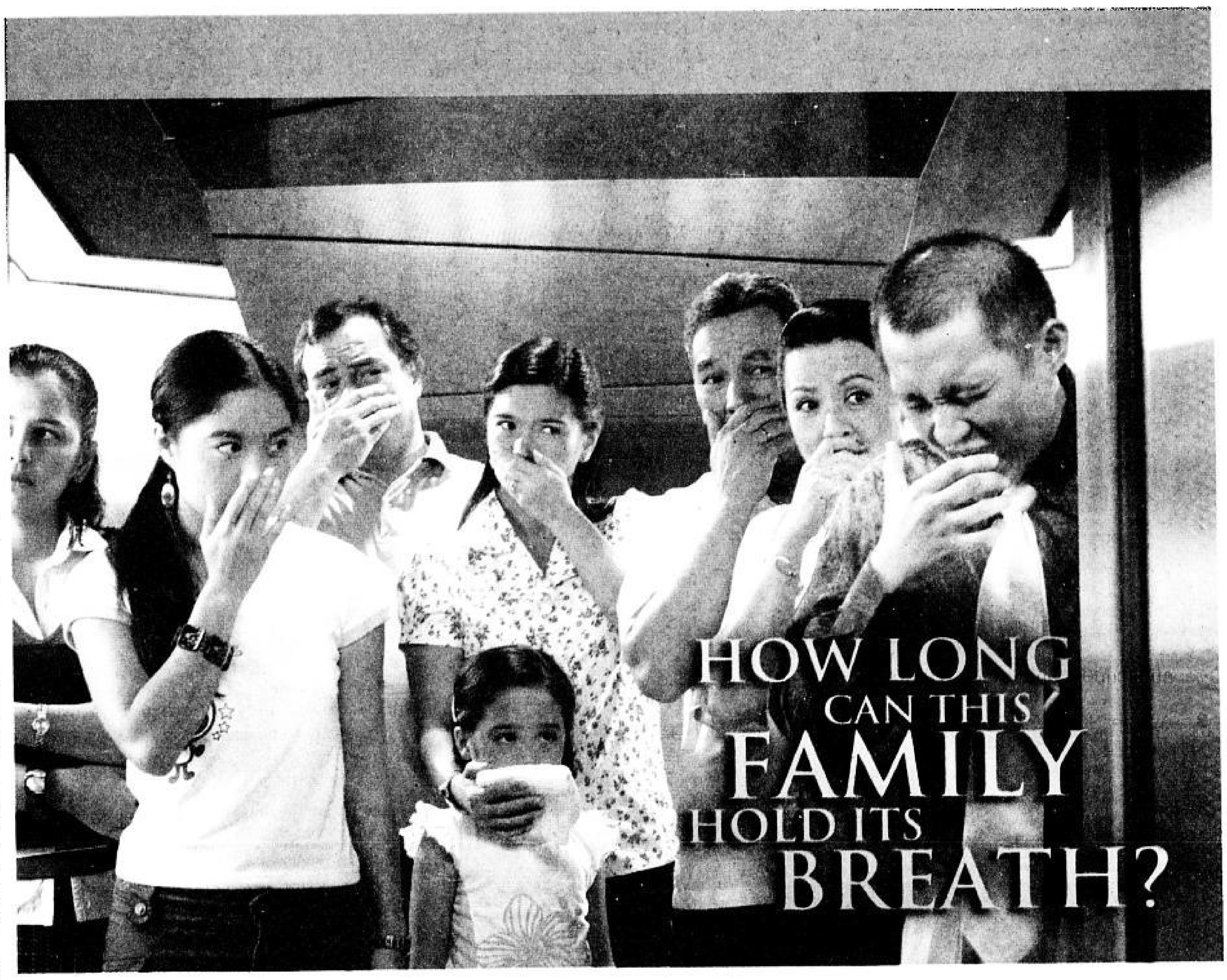
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From page A1

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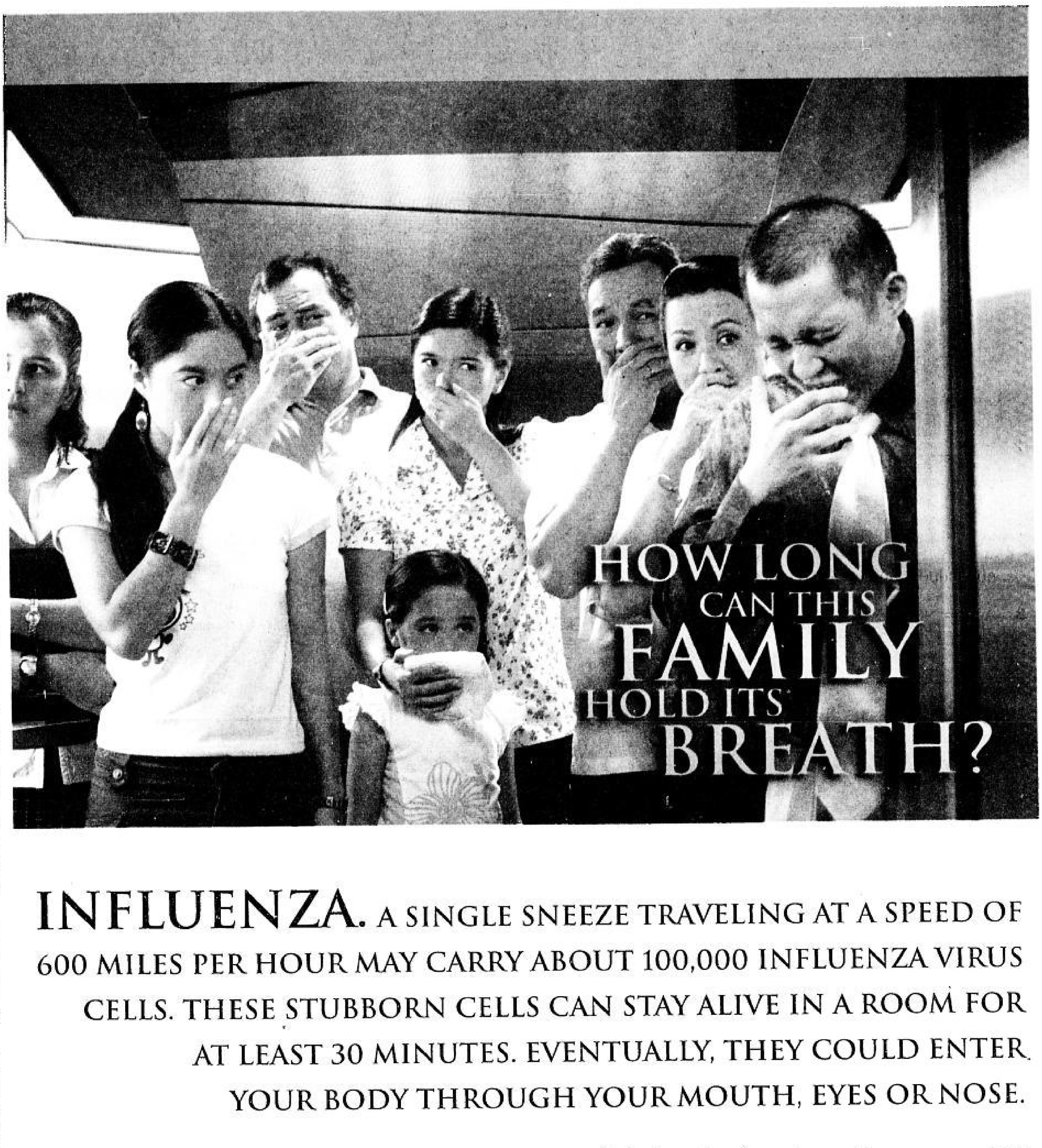
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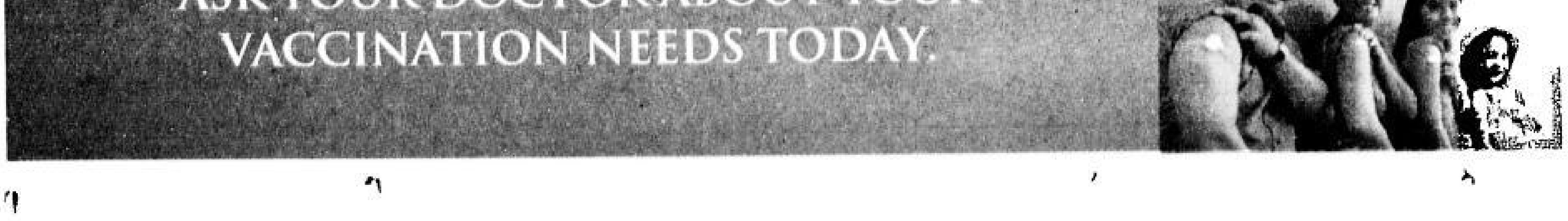
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No. 08, s-2007

TO : ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Addendum to PhilHealth Circular No. 36, s-2002 re: Member Data Amendment for Members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP)

Section 11 (Member Data Amendment/Revision) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the National Health Insurance Act (RA 7875) as amended by RA 9241 states to wit:

> *"A member may request revision/amendment in the data previously furnished the Corporation by filling up the proper form and submitting documents to substantiate the same."*

In this regard, and with the aim to establish a more reliable membership database, PhilHealth Circular No. 36, s-2002 was issued wherein Member Data Amendment Form (M2) was identified as one of the proper forms intended for cases in which the member may request for a correction/amendment of his/her data.

In line with the abovementioned aims and objectives, this PhilHealth Circular is being issued to affirm that properly filed PhilHealth Claim Form 1, with its supporting documents, is an alternative form for revision or amendment should there be inconsistencies in the data previously furnished to the Corporation provided the data reflected in the PhilHealth Claim Form 1 have been properly certified to be true and correct by the member.

All other issuances inconsistent with the abovementioned provisions is hereby repealed.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

Please be guided accordingly.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO
Acting President & CEO

Date Signed: May 15, 2007

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 11, s-2007

TO : ALL ACCREDITED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, PHILHEALTH MEMBERS, CLAIMS PROCESSING DEPARTMENTS - CENTRAL AND REGIONAL OFFICES AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Amendment of the "Annex" of PhilHealth Circular No. 03, series of 2007 (Additional list of compensable procedures and services) and Relative Value Scale 2001 (Manual of surgical and other procedures, revised edition)

1. To facilitate the payment for preoperative medical evaluation (RVS Code 99256) as stated in Circular No. 03 series 2007, the following guidelines for reimbursement of preoperative medical evaluation are hereby issued:

1.1 The code and relative value unit of preoperative medical evaluation in Relative Value Scale (RVS) provides:

CODE	DESCRIPTIVE TERMS	RVU
99256	Preoperative inpatient consultation for a new or established patient which requires: an expanded problem focused history, examination and medical decision making. It is requested by another physician or appropriate source; the consultant advises the requesting physician about the management of a specific problem including follow up care for 90 days after the procedure.	40

a. Preoperative medical evaluation is a service provided by a physician whose opinion or advice is requested by another physician regarding evaluation and/or management of a specific medical problem which might affect the patient's ability to undergo a procedure or might influence the outcome of a procedure.

b. Claims will be paid only to physicians accredited in any of the following fields: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Neurology, and Pediatrics. Such physicians are identified by the new accreditation number convention listed in Annex A of PhilHealth Circular No. 11 series of 2005.

Sub-classification	First Four Numbers of New Number Convention
Diplomate/Fellow of Philippine Academy of Family Physicians	1201
Diplomate/Fellow of Philippine College of Physicians	1202
Diplomate/Fellow of Philippine Pediatric Society	1203
Diplomate/Fellow of Philippine Neurological Association	1210

c. Therefore, claims for pre-operative medical evaluation by surgeons and anesthesiologists will not be reimbursed.

d. Likewise, RVS code 99256 is applicable only for evaluations given while the patient is admitted. Preoperative medical evaluation given on an outpatient basis will not be compensated.

e. This service is applicable only if surgery is accomplished within the same admission period. If surgery is deferred for that particular admission, the service will not be paid based on RVU of 99256. In such situation, claim for professional fee may be reimbursed as medical care based on daily visits subject to allowable amount per hospital admission.

f. Physician/s who claimed for preoperative medical evaluation can no longer claim additional fee for daily visits.

g. Preoperative medical evaluation with intraoperative monitoring will be compensated as RVS code 99360 (operative standby including preoperative inpatient consultation).

h. If the patient has multiple co-morbidities and requires several preoperative medical clearance/evaluation from different specialty groups, only one physician will be reimbursed.

i. In filing for claims,a copy of the consultation/clearance form with the corresponding preoperative assessment and recommendation must be attached to the claim forms.

2. The correct assignment of codes and relative value units (RVU) for the following procedures shall be observed:

CODE	DESCRIPTIVE TERMS	RVU
31820	Surgical closure tracheostomy or fistula w/o plastic repair	35
31825	Surgical closure tracheostomy or fistula with plastic repair	50
93555	Imaging supervision, interpretation and report for injection procedure(s) during cardiac catheterization; ventricular and/or atrial angiography	50

a. RVS Code 93555 with RVU of 100 is deleted.

3. The RVS codes and relative value units for the following procedures remain the same, however the corresponding descriptive term shall be revised as follows:

CODE	DESCRIPTIVE TERMS	RVU
33223	**Revision of skin pocket for single or dual chamberpacing cardioverter-defibrillator**	100
33233	Removal of permanent pacemaker pulse generator	75
33234	**Removal of transvenous pacemaker electrode(s); single lead system, atrial or ventricular**	150
33235	dual lead system	175
65205	Removal of foreign body, external eye; **conjunctival, superficial**	10

4. The complete list of additional compensable procedures and services listed in "Annex A" of Circular No. 03, series of 2007 with the above-mentioned amendments is attached hereto as Annex "A" *(refer to www.philhealth.gov.ph)*.

This Circular shall take effect after 15 days from its publication in the official gazette or in the newspaper of general circulation. All other issuances inconsistent with this circular are hereby modified or repealed accordingly.

For your information and guidance.

(Sgd.) ATTY. VALENTIN C. GUANIO
Officer-in-charge
Office of the Acting President and CEO

Date Signed: May 22, 2007

Jonas mom accuses Esperon of coverup

From page A1

parecido (disappeared person). I have all the right to know what the Provost Marshal and the Inspector General have found out in their investigation."

Asked to comment, the military denied that Esperon was engaged in a coverup of Jonas' disappearance, and said that it was actually trying to be "transparent" in the investigation.

5 officers of 56th IB

Esperon had earlier ordered the Provost Marshal and the Inspector General to look into the possible involvement of five Army officers assigned at the 56th Infantry Battalion (IB).

Prior to this, police investigators reported that they had taken the statements of Lt. Col. Noel Clement, now commanding officer of the Security and Escort Battalion based in Fort Bonifacio; Lt. Col. Melquiades Feliciano, commanding officer of the 56th IB who succeeded Clement in January but was reportedly relieved in May; Lt. Col. Edison Caga, commanding officer of the 69th IB stationed in Pampanga who was assigned to secure the 56th IB when it underwent training in November 2006; and Cpl. Castro Bugalon and PFC Jose Villena III, who were both assigned at the 56th IB.

"I strongly suspect that either or both of [the 56th IB's] former commanding officers, Clement and Feliciano, participated in the enforced disappearance of Jonas," Burgos said.

She said Esperon's conduct had served to reinforce her belief that the Army abducted Jonas and that the chief of staff had been covering it up.

Meeting with Esperon

Burgos said that on May 21, her lawyer Ricardo Fernandez Jr. wrote Esperon to request a copy of the report of the Provost Marshal and the Inspector General on the involvement of the 56th IB in the disappearance of her 37-year-old son.

She said she met with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on May 29 "to seek his help in finding Jonas and ask about any information he could provide."

She added that Ermita "responded by arranging that I meet with General Esperon on June 6 at 10 a.m."

According to Burgos, President Macapagal-Arroyo even phoned her four days before the meeting, expressing concern about Jonas and reminding her that she should see Esperon.

But when Fernandez and her brother Jimmy Tronqued went to Esperon's office on the appointed date, they were met by two Army officers who had no idea about their request for a copy of the Provost Marshal's report, Burgos said.

Esperon, they said, had left for another meeting.

Burgos herself was unable to be at the meeting because of an ailment.

'Classified matter'

On June 21, Fernandez received a letter from the Judge Advocate General, Brig. Gen. Nemesio Dabal, who wrote in behalf of Esperon.

"The letter said we could not be given copies of the report of the Provost Marshal and the Inspector General because of two restraints," Burgos said.

She said the first reason pertained to the report as a "classified matter," the unauthorized disclosure of which, while not endangering national security, might cause unwarranted injury to an individual.

She quoted Dabal as also saying that the other restraint was a necessary measure in order to prevent the preemption of the final outcome of the case "through the premature disclosure of an initial investigation result which is taking its course under the military justice system."

"In other words, General Esperon turned down my request because he was concerned that my reading of the report of the Provost Marshal and Inspector General may cause some unwarranted injury to someone, whom he has not named, and because he does not want the initial investigation result to preempt or be presumed to be the final outcome," Burgos said.

She said that from the evidence gathered by investigators—including the testimony of the Ever Gotesco mall security guard who saw Jonas being forced into a vehicle with Plate No. TAB 194, which was later traced to the 56th IB—the Army should be held accountable for her son's disappearance.

The AFP information chief, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, told reporters that there was "no truth" to Burgos' accusations.

"Even before, the Chief of Staff made a commitment that anybody who is implicated in this case will be made available to any investigative body, and that's what we are doing right now," Bacarro said.

"We are trying to be as transparent as we want to be by making these people available," he said in reference to former 56th IB commanding officers Clement and Feliciano.

Bacarro said it was the police, and not the military, that was investigating Jonas' disappearance. He said the military had only focused its investigation on how a license plate of a vehicle impounded in the 56th IB camp in Norzagaray, Bulacan, ended up on the getaway vehicle of Jonas' abductors.

'I need to find Jonas'

But Burgos said: "The excuse of General Esperon in turning down my legitimate request is unacceptable to me. I need to find Jonas, and the report General Esperon is withholding from me will help me find him."

Fernandez, her lawyer, said police were having a difficult time getting the cooperation of the Army, especially with the supposed involvement of its colonels.

"We suggested to the police investigators to show the witnesses photos of 56th IB personnel," Fernandez said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Cory backs SC initiative

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO yesterday expressed support for the Supreme Court's planned multisectoral summit to discuss how it could expand its powers to help solve extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

Aquino, who has spoken out against the killings and the disappearance of agriculturist Jonas Burgos, believes the summit can help efforts to identify the perpetrators.

"Of course I'm supportive [of the summit] because so many people really want to see an end to all of these killings. And ... it's important to know who are the perpetrators, who are the people behind these killings," she said.

Aquino was at the high court to accompany her only son, Senator-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, who took his oath of office before Justice Adolf Azcuna yesterday morning.

NY-based rights group indicts military ...

From page A1

the findings documented the "involvement of the Armed Forces in the killings of individuals because of their political activities."

In its report, the group criticized Ms Arroyo for announcing a "wealth of new measures" her administration was supposedly bent on doing to stop the rampant political killings.

"In the end, it is action that speaks louder than words," it noted. "The only indication of the government's commitment to end these killings will be when the perpetrators are finally held to account in a court of law."

The group also scored the military leadership for failing to "hold any of its members accountable for these unlawful killings, including superior officers who ordered, encouraged, or permitted them."

The document, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER last night, was the result of more than 100 interviews and research work conducted by the group in the Philippines between September and November last year.

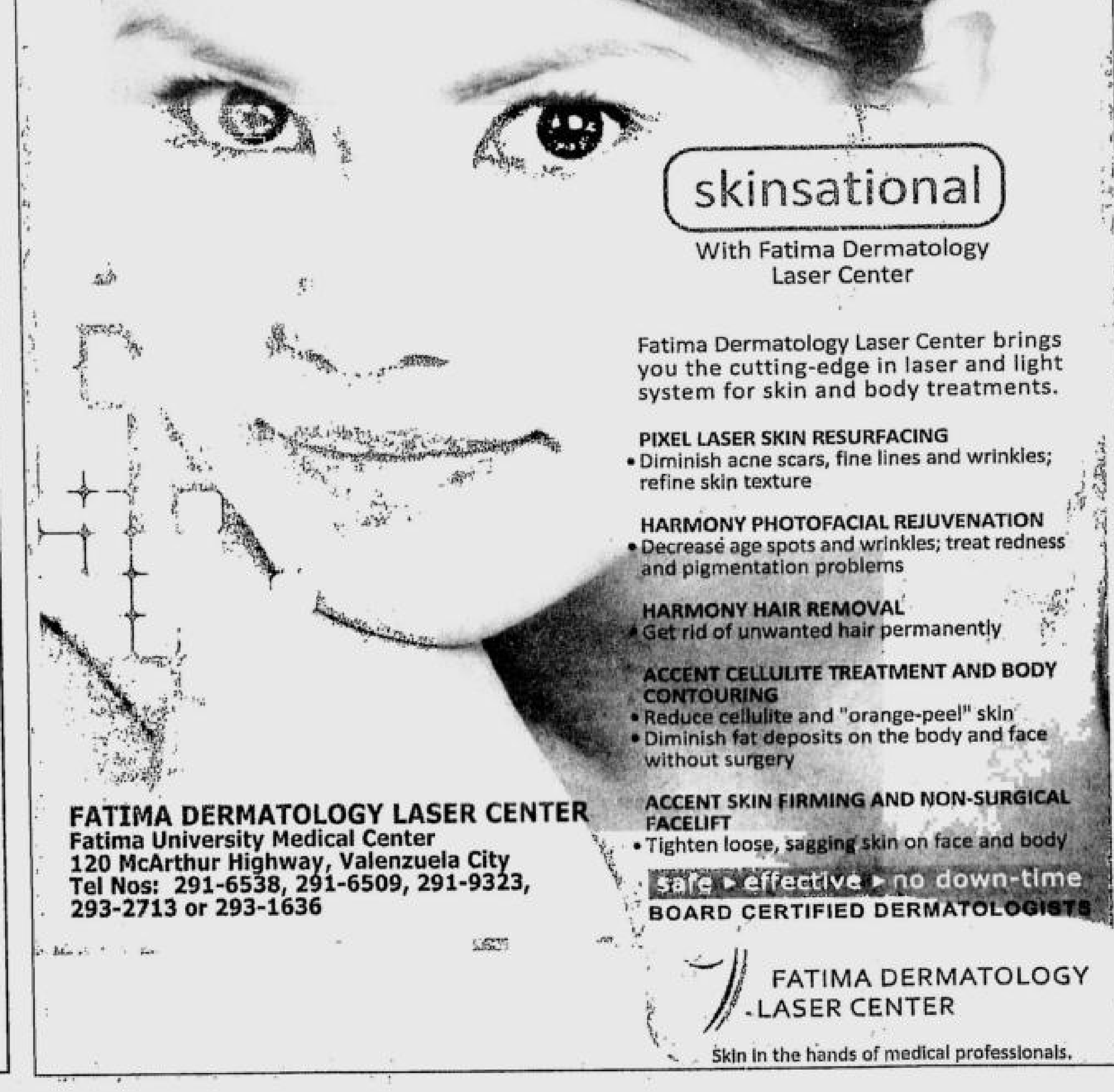
"The pattern of these unlawful killings suggests they are intended to eliminate suspected supporters of the NPA and its political wing, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), and to intimidate those who work for progressive causes who certain critics in the government and Armed Forces consider linked to the insurgency," the Human Rights Watch reported.

"Most of the victims of these political killings are members of the legal political parties or organizations that the military claims are allied with the communist movement."

Human Rights Watch was born in 1978 at the Helsinki Watch that monitored the implementation of the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Accord. It has since grown into an international network with offices in Brussels, London, Moscow, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Tashkent, Toronto and Washington.

The group urged Ms Arroyo to immediately issue an executive order to both the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police "reiterating the prohibition on the extrajudicial killing of any person."

It also asked the President to bar the police and the military and other "executive agencies" from issuing "statements that are incitement to violence, such as by implying that members of nongovernmental organizations are valid targets of attacks because of their alleged association or sympathy with the (CPP/NPA)."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Cops get wrong man in killing of broadcaster

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—POLICE HAVE IDENTIfied the wrong suspect in the ambush that killed a reporter for a government radio station in Tawi-Tawi, one of those wounded in the attack said yesterday.

Maria Vema Antham, a senior reporter of the Radyo ng Bayan in the province, said the police suspect, Nur Suwang, was not among the assailants who fired at the motorcycle carrying her and Vicente Sumalpong on June 25.

Sumalpong, also known as Enteng, was brought to the Datu Halun Memorial Hospital in Bongao but died shortly.

Antham said Sumalpong had covered her with his body during the attack but she was still hit in the arm.

The broadcaster's nephew, Roilan Borja, was also wounded.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, has named Suwang as among the suspects.

"It's not him, he is a fall guy, I know our killers and he is not one of them," Antham insisted.

But she added: "It's not yet time to disclose (their identities) to the public."

Antham said she already provided details of the ambush to investigators before she and her family left Tawi-Tawi.

She said her officemates also supported her statement.

One of the suspects, Antham said, had been seen near the radio station three days before the attack.

"It will be unfair to this guy and I will be unfair to my friend and fellow worker if I will just keep quiet," she said.

Antham said the police should not look far in their investigation.

"I am not questioning the capability of our police officers, but they knew that prior to the incident, I and Enteng had already been filing reports about death threats and harassment [we have been receiving]. There should be an independent probe of this case," Antham said.

Senior Supt. Imlani Anni, Tawi-Tawi police chief, said the broadcaster's complaints were among the many angles that investigators were pursuing.

Antham said she was asking the police for protection because the mastermind of the ambush could be trying to find her already.

Anni gave assurances of police security not only to Antham but to her relatives in Bongao as well.

Too much personal …

From page A1

to see doctors in secretly recorded visits.

Doctors often wasted time in what already may have been short visits and stifled the flow of information from patients by gabbing about themselves, their own health problems, their families and their political beliefs, the study found.

The doctors engaged in such "personal disclosures" in 34 percent of visits tracked by the researchers. The personal talk may have been well-intentioned—to deepen a doctor-patient relationship—but yielded little of value to patients and sometimes was counterproductive, the researchers said.

"We found that physician self-disclosures were often non sequiturs, unattached to any discussion in the visit, and focused more on the physician's than the patient's needs," the researchers wrote in the journal Archives of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Howard Beckman, a medical professor at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York, said he used to engage in this type of talk in his own practice.

"I've changed my thinking," Beckman, who worked on the study, said in a telephone interview. "What I've learned is when I'm thinking of talking about myself, I probably need to ask the person (patient) more about their experience."

A hundred experienced, primary care doctors in the Rochester region agreed to take part in a study of patient care and outcomes, consenting to two unannounced, audio-recorded patient visits in 2000 and 2001. Actors portrayed first-time patients professing to have common medical problems.

Some of the recorded visits were thrown out because the doctor figured out the actor was not a real patient, leaving 113 visits for the researchers to analyze. *Reuters*

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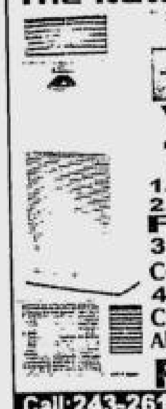

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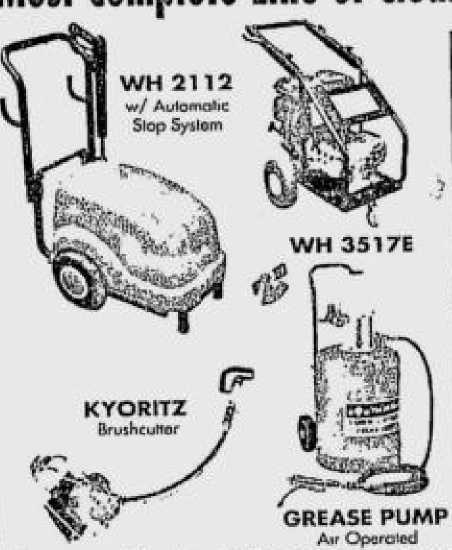

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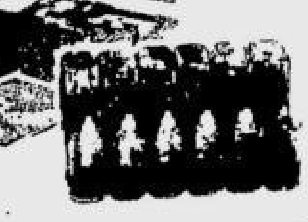

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JPEPA: Heralding a new age of growth

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> The Agreement will enhance the Philippines' attractiveness as a destination for Japanese investments as it provides a framework that ensures greater certainty for investors.

THE Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement or JPEPA represents an unparalleled opportunity for the Filipino people. The Agreement expands trade and investments between the Philippines and Japan – the world's second largest economy. It brings accelerated economic and social growth for the nation, opening new markets for our businesses and creating employment for our people.

JPEPA will help Philippine business become globally competitive and achieve success across numerous markets, not just Japan. When the Agreement comes into force, it will create new benefits and opportunities for Philippine society. All these dynamic gains shall translate into more businesses, more jobs and, ultimately, poverty alleviation.

With the Agreement, almost 95% of Philippine exports to Japan (in terms of value) will face zero duties on Day One. This means becoming even more competitive. The impact will immediately be felt by our farmers, fishermen and food processors. Our industries will also be beneficiaries because both parties will eliminate tariffs on almost all industrial goods within 10 years from the day JPEPA comes into force.

Philippine manufacturing industries will reap both immediate benefits, through improved market access and – more importantly – dynamic gains through additional streams of investment flows.

Enhancing RP's attractiveness as an investment haven

The Agreement will enhance the Philippines' attractiveness as a destination for Japanese investments as it provides a framework that provides greater certainty for investors. The Agreement will serve as a powerful incentive for Japanese investors to use the Philippines as a base for operations in Southeast Asia.

JPEPA will provide market access and non-discriminatory treatment for Filipino service providers. This means job opportunities for engineers, architects, interior designers, and film production workers, among others. Services account for almost 70% of Japan's economy. It is a sector that is one of the most difficult to access and yet one that will be opened to Filipinos.

More importantly, the Agreement establishes a formal arrangement for the acceptance of Filipino nurses and careworkers in Japan. In three years, it is estimated that Japan will need more than seven million nurses and careworkers to tend to a huge elderly market (20% of Japan's population). Under JPEPA, Japan will, for the first time in its history, be accepting foreign careworkers to take care of its elderly.

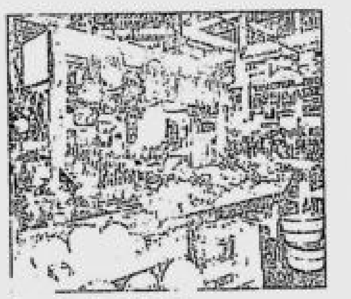
A partnership of growth

The Agreement is a partnership, with the second largest economy in the world. Japan is a market of 128 million consumers. It is the world's fifth largest importer and the eighth biggest source of investments in the world. To have strong, formal linkages with Japan is to have near-limitless opportunities for economic growth. JPEPA means expanded trade, more jobs for our services sector, and more investments from Japan. JPEPA means technology transfer in the areas of energy and telecommunications. It means better market access for banking and financial services.

The benefits of JPEPA will reverberate in the years to come. It is an opportunity for growth that must not be squandered. It is also a challenge to our leaders to secure a brighter tomorrow for this generation and for the generations to come. ■

BENEFITS

Key points of the Agreement



Trade in Goods

Tariffs on 95% of industrial and agricultural products (in terms of value) will be eliminated or reduced. Emergency measures will provide the rules for addressing serious injury or threat caused by increased imports.

Rules of Origin

These will determine originating goods for which preferential treatment will be accorded.

Customs Procedures

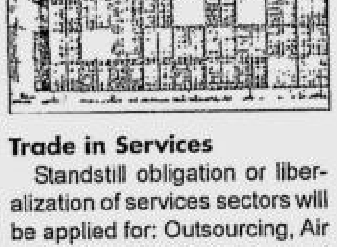
These will provide information exchange and cooperation to facilitate trade through simplified and harmonized customs procedures, including maximizing use of information and communications technology.

Paperless Trading

This will provide information exchange on best practices.

Mutual Recognition

Mutual Recognition arrangements to facilitate trade in electrical and other products such that both sides shall accept results of conformity assessment procedures as conducted by the other party.



Trade in Services

Standstill obligation or liberalization of services sectors will be applied for: Outsourcing, Air Transport, Health-related and Social Services, Tourism and Travel-related services, Maritime Transport Services, Telecommunications, and Banking.

Investment

This will include provisions concerning National Treatment, MFN (Most Favored-Nation) Treatment and Performance Requirement Prohibitions for the liberalization of investment and enhance transparency by specifying all exceptions to these provisions.

Movement of Natural Persons

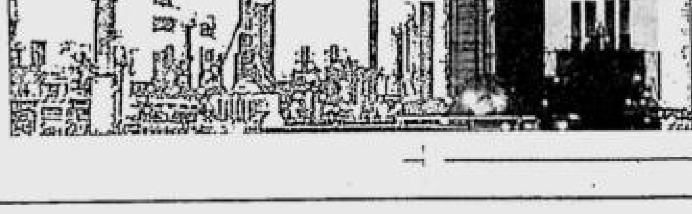
Easier entry of qualified Filipino nurses and certified careworkers through language training, clear guidelines on the exercise of profession/occupation and streamlined processing of application, and possible application in other professions.

Intellectual Property

Enhanced understanding of protecting intellectual property, given Japanese practices, which will thereby elevate the status of the Philippines in Asia. This will include cooperation and appropriate protection and enforcement elements.

Government Procurement

Increased transparency of government procurement laws, regulations and procedures, and possible access and liberalization of government procurement activities, taking into account the development, financial and trade needs of both parties.



Competition

Promotion of increased vigilance and increased attention to the protection of fair competition. The Agreement also seeks to promote competition by addressing anti-competitive activities and cooperation in the field of competition.

Improvement of the Business Environment

Both sides will cooperate to improve the business environment of both countries. A framework of consultations will be set up to ensure more efficient and timely resolution of issues affecting Japanese and Filipino enterprises in both countries.

Cooperation

Bilateral cooperation in 10 fields within the context of Official Development Assistance. These fields are:

- Human Resources Development
- Financial Services
- Information and Communications Technology
- Energy and Environment
- Science and Technology
- Trade and Investment Promotion
- Small and Medium Enterprises
- Tourism
- Transportation
- Road Development

Dispute Avoidance and Settlement

The Agreement provides a mechanism for addressing government-to-government disputes on the interpretation of implementation procedures while relying on the primacy of consultations. ■

ISSUES

What JPEPA has to offer

THE Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) is the single most significant economic agreement for the Philippines in the past five decades. The Agreement spells out the framework for the expansion of trade in goods and services between the two countries, paving the way for wider market access, bigger investments, and technology transfer from Japan.

Trade

Close to 95 percent of Philippine exports will face zero duties on Day One when JPEPA comes into force. Manufacturing will benefit through improved market access and through additional streams for investment inflows. At the moment, Japan is the biggest source of investments for the Philippines. But that is only half the story since the Philippines still only attracts a small portion of total Japanese direct investments.

Agricultural exports will undoubtedly get a big boost with the opening of the Japanese market under a zero or reduced tariff regime. But industries will also be beneficiaries. On iron and steel, the Philippines will introduce a tariff rate quota (TRQ) – ensuring a sufficient volume for local producers. At the same time, the immediate elimination of tariffs on certain steel products will ensure Philippine industries' access to Japan's highly-competitive specialty steel as production inputs.

On auto and auto parts, tariff eliminations will enlarge domestic automotive market, and position the country as an emerging base for Japanese regional auto production.

On electrical and electronics appliances and their parts, tariffs will be eliminated within 10 years. This will cement the Philippines' supply position in Japan.

On textiles and apparels, tariffs on almost all the goods will be mutually eliminated immediately thus increasing RP exports of apparel to Japan.

Agriculture

There will be an immediate positive impact on farmers, fisherfolk, and food processors. The products that will be included in Japan's tariff-reduction program under JPEPA are shrimps, prawns, crabs, legumes, dried bananas, guavas, mangos, mangosteens, fresh papaya., copra, coconut oil, fresh coconuts, dried durian, jackfruits and rambutans.

For sugar, a TRQ under an in-quota rate of just half of the applied MFN rate will be introduced.

For poultry, the TRQ will provide an in-quota rate of 8.5 percent, against an MFN applied rate of 11.9 percent.

For beverages, there will be immediate tariff elimination for coffee, beer and fermented drinks made from aratiles, bignay, calamansi, coconut, dalandan, guava, and marang, among others.

Most of these food items are new in the Japanese market and will require extensive marketing efforts. At the same time, product improvement and research and development have to be undertaken to make these foods acceptable to the Japanese consumer.

Gradual tariff eliminations toward zero will be implemented in products like frozen yellow fin tuna, canned tuna, fresh bananas, dried pineapples and fruits containing sugar.

JPEPA is unique in that it is not only a trade agreement. It is a framework for cooperation between Japan and the Philippines that includes assistance in human resources development, research and development, and technology development and transfer.

Through JPEPA, the farm sector can attain higher levels of production not only for exports but for our domestic needs—with Japanese technical assistance.

Environment

The Agreement has sufficient provisions that will protect the environment and prevent any illegal trade in toxic waste. There are very stringent import controls and regulations on trade in hazardous waste. A careful reading of the Agreement will show that it does not contain any provision explicitly allowing trade or liberalized entry of regulated or banned products in both countries.

The Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) says the Agreement is based on sustainable environmental cooperation. It binds the countries to the general principles of efficient use of energy, proper management of the environment and sustainable development, and the need to cooperate in the field of energy and environment.

Trade liberalization under JPEPA allows special exceptions for environmental protection. An articles state: "Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to limit the authority of a Party to take measures it considers appropriate for protecting health, safety or the environment or prevention of deceptive practices."

The bottom line is that JPEPA has sufficient provisions to protect the environment and prevent any illegal trade that may arise from the zero tariff imposed on hazardous and toxic wastes. The PIDS notes that trade liberalization under JPEPA does not mean, or imply, that the ability of any of the two countries to take measures to control trade in hazardous and toxic wastes or, more generally, to protect the environment is at issue.

Similar fears about the environment and health had been aired by some people in at least two Asian countries – Singapore and Malaysia – when they forged similar agreements with Japan.

In the economic partnership agreements signed by Japan with the two Southeast Asian countries, tariffs on ash, residues, waste pharmaceuticals, municipal waste, sewage sludge, clinical wastes and other waste products have also been eliminated.

There have been no adverse effects on the environment of Singapore and Malaysia since these agreements took effect.

Labor and Employment

Services account for about 70% of Japan's economy. This sector is the most difficult for foreign companies to penetrate. Japan, for the first time, is opening this market through JPEPA to Filipino engineers, IT specialists and health workers.

Filipino technicians and professionals will be able to get outsourced jobs and contracts in engineering design, interior design, architectural services, motion picture production, particularly animation, to mention only a few.

The tourism market comprises not only hotel and restaurant services but also air transport services, computer reservation systems including call centers and the repair, maintenance, and servicing of airplanes. Most of these jobs and contracts will be outsourced to Filipino workers and companies.

Japan's population is aging. It will need health workers, particularly nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists and institutional and home-based caregivers JPEPA will give Filipino professionals in these fields preferential and non-discriminatory access to these occupations.

The immediate needs of Japan are in the medical and health care fields. The Japanese Department of Labor estimates that by 2010 Japan will need about 7.5 million health professionals. Japan's elderly population now accounts for 20% of its total population. This is expected to rise to 29% of the total by 2025.

The opportunities for well-paid jobs for Filipino health workers, is the most immediate benefit from JPEPA. Others will follow as the Agreement is implemented.

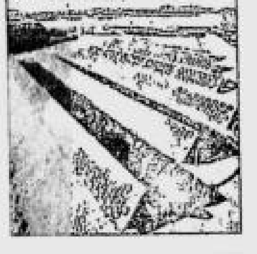
But over time this initial benefit can be expanded to retirement communities in both Japan and the Philippines, nursing homes that are owned by Filipino health workers, and medical tourism catering to Japanese clients.

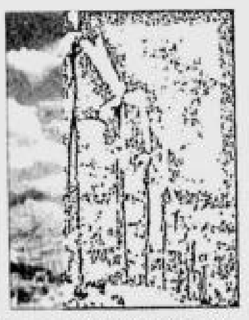
The sea-borne trade of Japan is expected to increase. Hence, Japan will be needing service personnel for its cargo ships. These jobs will be available to Filipinos.

Telecommunications is the fastest growing sector in the Philippines. We have produced a well-trained work force that can now find jobs in Japan's ICT-based industries and to service the needs of OFWs living and working in Japan.

Energy

JPEPA is an agreement anchored on close cooperation. Aside from the trade gains and opportunities, JPEPA seeks to provide a more tangible framework of sustainable growth for industries like energy. Like Japan, the Philippines is heavily dependent on imports for fuel supply. Yet Japan stands today as an example of an economy weaned on the policy of clean, affordable energy. It has invested heavily in developing alternative sources of power such as solar and wind.





The Philippines continues to make inroads in the development of alternative energy sources. JPEPA will hasten this drive for clean, affordable energy. At the end of the day, we seek to have an economy driven by affordable power, a regime which will benefit the consumers who will enjoy lower prices of goods. It will redound to the benefit of households as well since the cost of power generation will go down, bringing the cost of electricity with it. ■

CONCLUSION

A future of prosperity

THE long and arduous road that the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) has led to the Senate of the Republic of the Philippines. There, the fate of this Agreement rests, awaiting its ratification.

JPEPA has been caught in a frenzy of discussions and debates, heated arguments and demonstrations. In the end, it will be put to a simple yet historic vote, a vote that will decide not only the fate of the Agreement but the aspirations of majority of the Filipino people as well.

JPEPA represents a window of opportunity for the country to move forward. The economic gains to be enjoyed from increased trade with Japan, not only of goods but of services as well, can be translated into increased investments, higher employment, and technology transfer that will boost a wide range of business sectors in the Philippines—from energy to transport to telecommunications and information and communications technology.

> Investments from Japan are expected to come in, that will build more factories, establish more businesses and generate more employment for Filipinos.

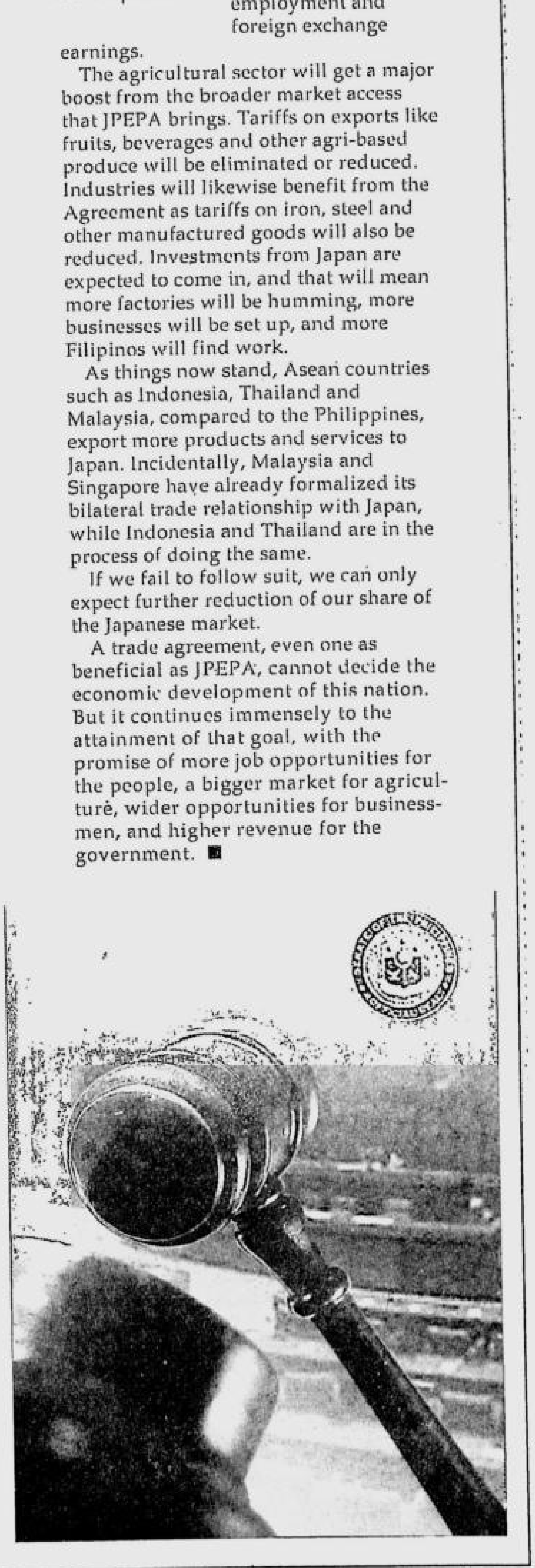
The social benefits are enormous: the outsourcing and employment prospects alone are expected to further fuel economic growth. Imagine, the lucrative Japanese market opening up for Filipino nurses and caregivers, architects, engineers, interior designers, even film production workers like animators, directors and artists. This will mean employment and foreign exchange earnings.

The agricultural sector will get a major boost from the broader market access that JPEPA brings. Tariffs on exports like fruits, beverages and other agri-based produce will be eliminated or reduced. Industries will likewise benefit from the Agreement as tariffs on iron, steel and other manufactured goods will also be reduced. Investments from Japan are expected to come in, and that will mean more factories will be humming, more businesses will be set up, and more Filipinos will find work.

As things now stand, Asean countries such as Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, compared to the Philippines, export more products and services to Japan. Incidentally, Malaysia and Singapore have already formalized its bilateral trade relationship with Japan, while Indonesia and Thailand are in the process of doing the same.

If we fail to follow suit, we can only expect further reduction of our share of the Japanese market.

A trade agreement, even one as beneficial as JPEPA, cannot decide the economic development of this nation. But it continues immensely to the attainment of that goal, with the promise of more job opportunities for the people, a bigger market for agriculture, wider opportunities for businessmen, and higher revenue for the government. ■



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It's a steal

EDITORIAL

THE GOVERNMENT CONTRACT TO BUILD THE so-called National Broadband Network, won by China's ZTE Corp., should have been red-flagged from the get-go. Instead, it was green-lighted every step of the way. The result: A $330-million scandal, to be paid with taxpayer's money long after the Arroyo administration is history.

Confucius says: Extraordinary haste makes extraordinary waste.

The circumstances that led to the signing of the contract are suspicious, to say the least.

Economic managers raised the idea of a National Broadband Network before the Cabinet in October 2006 and discussed it in depth with President Macapagal-Arroyo the following month; the memorandum of agreement with ZTE was signed in April 2007, in China, only five months later. Unusually rapid progress, judging by the usual standards of government paperwork.

Two months after the NBN was discussed in the Cabinet, or in December 2006, a company by the name of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. submitted to the Department of Transportation and Communication an unsolicited proposal to connect all government offices through a $240-million network—at no cost to the government. In exchange, the company sought a guarantee that the government would subscribe to its service, albeit at a discount.

Two months after that, however, the DOTC began negotiating with ZTE—despite the first company's advantageous offer, and despite the cost of ZTE's proposal: $300 million to build a nationwide network, all of it to be shouldered by the government.

Two months later, in April, and in the President's presence, Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza and a ZTE vice president signed the memorandum of agreement. By then, the total cost had gone up to $330 million—to be paid by the government, using a loan from China with a "concessionary" interest rate of 3 percent. (We put that in quotes, because the soft-loan nature of this transaction is also under question.)

If the pre-signing circumstances are suspicious, however, the circumstances **after** the signing are downright dubious.

For two months after the signing of the MOA in China, while criticism against the deal mounted, the DOTC kept a studied silence. On June 6, some of the country's most influential business groups issued a sharply worded statement, saying they "strongly" opposed the ZTE deal and called on the President "to diplomatically abrogate the contract and to commit the funds to education instead." No reply.

'No reply until about two weeks later, in a forum organized expressly to discuss the NBN controversy. The DOTC official in charge of the project, Assistant Secretary Lorenzo Formoso, said the reason the department had kept mum all this time was because it had lost copies of the contract.

More precisely, Formoso said, almost casually, the only two "sovereign" copies of the MOA were stolen from the hotel in China, a few hours after the signing.

Apparently, the brazenness of Lintang Bedol, the provincial election supervisor of Maguindanao who belatedly reported that election documents kept in his office had been stolen, is contagious.

The National Bureau of Investigation believes that a theft had indeed occurred. NBI Director Nestor Mantaring said his agency has determined that "the missing documents were not accidentally lost," as claimed by the two men who had custody of the MOA: commercial attaché Emmanuel Nino Wee Ang and Allan Liu, a Chinese interpreter hired by the Philippine consulate in Guangzhou, Guangdong.

"Such [was] intentionally lost due to sinister motives," Mantaring said.

Given these circumstances, it is incumbent on the NBI to continue its investigation. It is also but proper for either the Senate or the House of Representatives to conduct a legislative inquiry, because the very idea behind this scandal should be the subject of a public policy debate.

Does the government, in fact, need to create a nationwide network to connect all its offices? If the answer is yes: Is the direct supply arrangement offered by ZTE the government's best option? If not, who should be held liable for expediting, and then entering into, a disadvantageous contract?

Here's a clue: "Sinister motives" are not confined to low-level officials.

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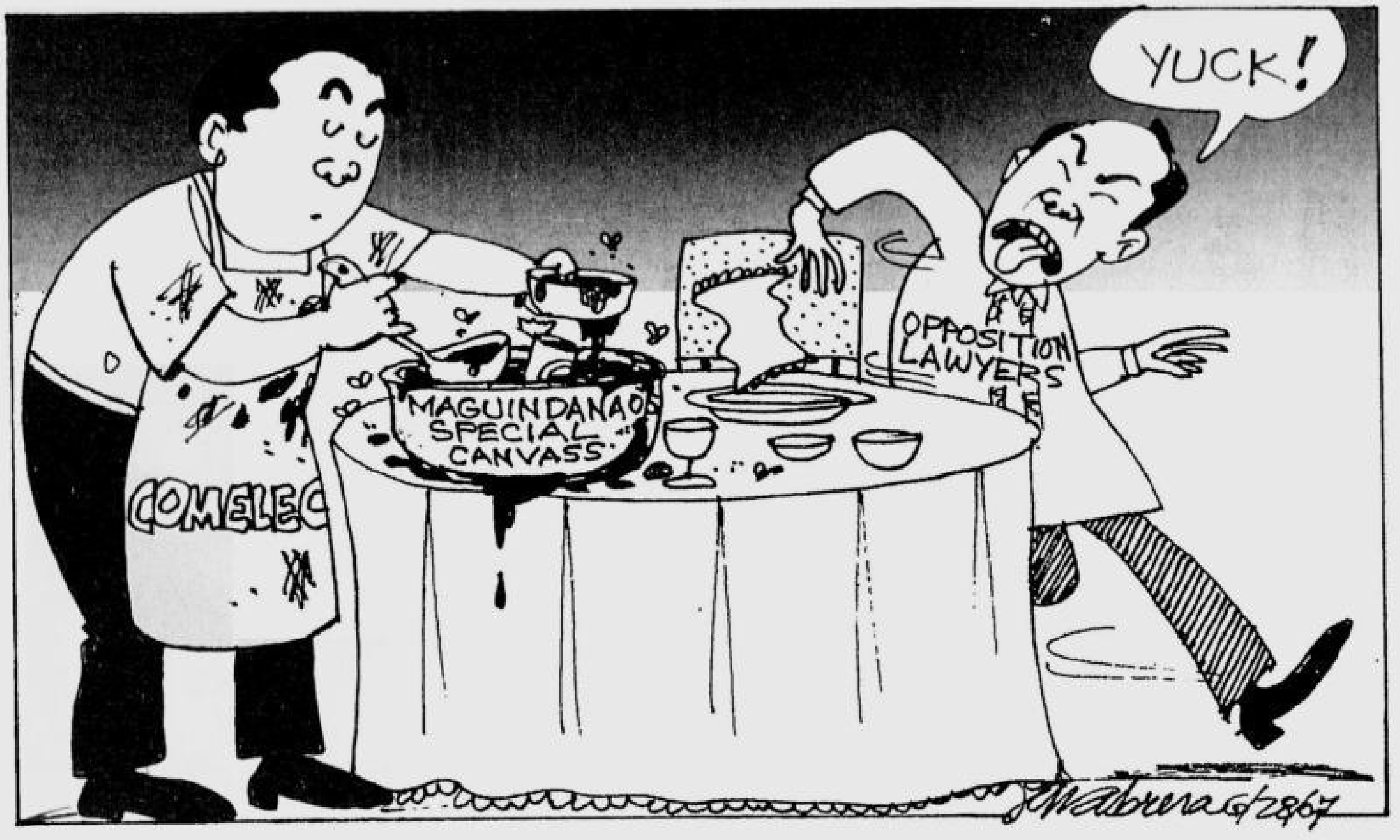


Sieve or dam?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"EVEN WATER IN THE SPRING DRIES UP," the Filipino proverb says. And that bugs an unfinished, water-short, P2.3-billion dam in the Central Visayan rice bowl of Bohol. Cost overruns of Banyagon Dam in San Miguel are the least of its troubles.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap left Banyagon May 24, fuming mad, reports Bingo Dejaresco of Bohol Chronicle. Skip the inauguration of the country's third largest irrigation dam, Yap will advise President Macapagal-Arroyo. That would "spare her from embarrassment."

"Production of irrigated rice has slumped as Bohol's three irrigation systems, criss-crossing 10,260 hectares, falter. Capayas in Ubay covers 1,160 hectares and System One in Pilar, 4,960 hectares. When completed, System Two, in San Miguel, will irrigate another 4,140 hectares.

Irrigation's crucial role is pinpointed by the Food and Agriculture Organization in one stark figure: 36 percent of global harvest is reaped from 16 percent of the world's cropland that is irrigated. But far too many systems perform below potential due to silting, waste, inept management, etc.

Significantly, irrigated land per capita is declining, as construction costs bolt. "This is historically new," says the United Nations agency. "Political leaders and development specialists have not yet fully grasped its consequences."

Little of these trends appears on front pages, however. There, the brawl is cast mainly in terms of red ink. Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado flays the National Economic and Development Authority for "not finding remedies to cost overruns…when they had the chance to do so three years ago." Neda Director General Romulo Neri was "too late" in objecting since the dam is 80-percent complete, the governor snapped.

The Neda chief, who repeatedly visited the project, spiked further fund releases. The 27-percent cost over-run racked up by Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Ltd. was "excessive," he said. They were not cleared by the committee overseeing Official Development Assistance projects.

When Japan approved the loan in December 1999, the dollar fetched P40 to $1. Serial devaluations, however, shoved that to P56. It has dropped to P45 plus today. But Neda dawdled on exchange-rate adjustments, Aumentado claims.

As the legal brawl deepens, further delays appear inevitable for a dam that was supposed to open its sluice gates in 2005. But the more intractable problems are elsewhere.

"The usefulness of Bayongan Dam in San Miguel will greatly depend on efficient management and operations (of System One) and Malinao Dam in Pilar," noted the Irrigated Rice Research Consortium. Of Bohol's 22 watersheds, the one around Bayongan is among the smaller ones. Thus, the plan called for excess water from Malinao to flow through a connecting channel to Bayongan reservoir.

That was the theory. But it is not happening. "Since start of operations in 1998, (System One) performed poorly," noted IRRC scientists. "Usually, there is not enough water available during the dry season of December to April. Most affected are the incomes of 'tail-end farmers' who live farthest from the dam. This problem is aggravated by unequal water distribution and wasteful use by farmers who employ continuous flooding to irrigate their rice crop."

Malinao Dam holds only 17 days worth of water, the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research reported in 2006. And without any recharge, Maliano would run dry, ACIAR's two year study asserted. Obviously, Malinao is in no position to funnel water into a second dam.

System One's shoddy track record, meanwhile, is endangering the life, operation and usefulness of System Two's Bayongan Dam even before the first drop of water has sloshed through. Is this another white elephant?

So, who know of this design flaw? National Irrigation Administration officials? And when? The record is murky. At a 2005 Bohol Research Consortium workshop, Neri said the dam was not economically viable.

Which of Bohol's 59 rivers will funnel water into Bayongan? Yap pointedly asked when he visited. "He was told that the dam would be rain-fed," an observer said. "And Yap's reaction was unprintable."

That's understandable. Yap is gung-ho about building an Agriculture Highway across the nation, interlinking irrigation facilities, storage and farm-to-market roads. Bayongan Dam was to be a linchpin. But that's not the way this cookie is crumbling. Then, why was it built? *Onli in da Pilipins.*

All of Bohol's dams are traditional reservoir-types. These did fine for an era of surplus water. But water shortages are spreading today. Farmers cannot irrigate as their ancestors did centuries ago: channeling water, by gravity, across farms—and losing over 40 percent in sieve-like canals.

The country needs "thrifty irrigation." New technologies were developed by countries that coped with dry wells. Israel, Cyprus, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and parts of the US use drip, surge and other micro-techniques, reducing water losses by 28 percent. Can we wring more "bang from every drop"?

San Miguel folk, meanwhile, bat around a "Fly-Now-Pay-Later" proposal lofted by their mayor: one member in every barangay will be loaned P100,000. Then, he can migrate and work abroad. Who'll stay home to tend a sieve-like dam?

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

What's in a name?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I READ WITH MUCH INTEREST—AND SYMpathy—Augusto de Viana's lament about the streets of Manila losing their original names to politicians.

As De Viana shows, gone now are such street names as Escolta, Dasmariñas, Anloague, Fundador, Jaboneros, Panaderos, Arroceros, Trabajo, Economia, Lealtad, Honradez, Firmeza, and Constancia. Escolta, in particular, had a tremendous historical significance: that was where the British commanding general passed under heavy escort (*escortar*, whence came Escolta) to give the colony back to Spain after occupying it for 20 months. The other names referred either to the places where certain types of workmen lived—bakers, soap makers, foundry workers, rice traders—or to such cherished virtues as thrift, industry, loyalty, honesty, resoluteness and constancy.

Many of these names still ring a bell in my ears. To this day, I confess I still often refer to Arsenio Lacson Street as Forbes and Claro M. Recto Street as Azcarraga. They were still around, I think, during my college years in the late 1960s and early 1970s. At least people referred to them as such. Indeed, some drivers and/or conductors then still referred to Edsa as Highway 54 or "Hehweh," as they pronounced it.

I understand that Juan F. Nakpil fought the renaming of Azcarraga to Claro M. Recto, saying, "If we keep changing the names of our streets, there may come a time when we may not be able to recognize our city anymore." The historian Gregorio Zaide himself ascribed the malady to "bigoted nationalism and jingoism."

My own position there is this: The renaming of streets should be done only sparingly and judiciously, or only when there is a monumentally compelling need for it. One is tempted to say that only new streets should be given new names. But given that no new streets are being built, only new cars are being sold, which is a recipe for urban suicide, and given that our existing streets are home to never-ending diggings, which is less a reminder of the past than a reminder of present-day laissez-faire kick-backing, the bigger temptation is simply to rename old ones.

I personally do not mind that Azcarraga gave way to Claro M. Recto and Forbes to Arsenio Lacson. Recto and Lacson were more than politicians, or they showed the best that politicians could be. Recto left a legacy of love of country comparable to that of Rizal—"The Making of a Filipino" is the title of Renato Constantino's biography of him, and it's a most apt one. And Lacson did more for Manila than most of the mayors before him and after him combined. I most certainly do not mind that Highway 54, which means nothing, has been renamed Epifanio de los Santos Avenue, which means everything. Can you imagine if we also called People Power I and II Highway 54 I and II?

There's nothing bigoted or jingoistic in renaming streets—or plazas, buildings, bridges, and other infrastructure—after the real heroes of this country. The demand for places like España, Intramuros and Binondo to not be renamed springs from the same nationalist fountainhead. It is a demand for Filipinos to recall their storied past, as given physical shape and form, or the sights and sounds of horrendous traffic, by the streets where they live. No, more than that, it is—particularly for this lobotomized country, whose capacity for amnesia is legendary—a demand to not cut the Ariadne's thread that leads us out of a historical void. That is nationalism. That is rooted-ness.

But I agree wholeheartedly with not renaming streets after politicians—most assuredly not the worst of them. That is adding insult to injury. The point of naming streets is to remind us of this nation's accomplishments, not to oppress us with our rulers' villainy. Why on earth should any road, least of all the most expensive one in the world per square inch, be named Diosdado Macapagal Avenue? To this day, we still have all sorts of avenues, boulevards, and streets named after Ferdinand and Imelda. I agree they should not be forgotten, but I argue they should not be extolled. Having infrastructure named after them is extolling them—and persecuting us.

If we are going to rename streets at all—and certainly if we are going to name new ones—I earnestly suggest we name them after artists, scientists and philosophers, such as we have produced philosophers. There is something deeply wrong with a country that values its public officials more than its artists and scientists. Artists and scientists enrich a country's spiritual life and leave lasting legacies, politicians only impoverish a country's physical life and leave lasting legacies of destruction and desolation. The only place they deserve to have their names affixed to is the toilet, preferably on the flush of the bowl.

Someone should propose a bill in Congress renaming all the streets currently named Marcos, Macapagal, or Arroyo after the artists and scientists, living or dead—alas, they die more plentifully than politicians in this accursed country—who have blessed us with their lives. I wouldn't mind seeing Roxas Boulevards, already a renaming of Dewey Boulevard, renamed again as Nick Joaquin Boulevard.

Or other than artists and scientists, simple people who have risen to true heights of heroism, holding out a beacon to this storm-tossed nation. Again, I suggest—no, demand—that the Comelec be renamed Musa Dimasidsing Election Commission just as the Manila International Airport was renamed Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Dimasidsing's heroism is not less than Ninoy's, it is more. He gave honesty whole new epic meanings, and reminded us what elections are meant to be. Few achievements are bigger, few legacies are more lasting.

What's in a name?

Plenty. The past, the present, the future.

Each CA seat equivalent to committee chair

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SUPREME COURT IS POISED TO HEAR today the Comelec's report and Team Unity candidate Juan Miguel Zubiri's oral arguments, after hearing Genuine Opposition candidate Aquilino Pimentel III's side last Tuesday. My hunch is that the Court won't issue a TRO on the on-going canvassing of Maguindanao votes and that Zubiri would be proclaimed the 12th winner of the senatorial race. This is because the Court would abide by the constitutional mandate that all outgoing elected officials have to vacate their posts by June 30, and all newly elected candidates should be proclaimed. Should this happen, Pimentel's sole recourse would be to file a regular election protest with the Senate Electoral Tribunal and hope that it would finish the recount at the earliest possible time, so that he could sit in the Senate sooner than other previous protesters.

* * *

I find it difficult to believe the allegation of three unnamed "generals" that the policy to kill leftists was ordered two years ago at a command conference attended by about 100 people at battalion and brigade levels. It's easy to believe that some killings of leftist leaders could be ascribed to misguided and abusive military elements, just as it's also easy to see leftists turning on their ilk. But to allege that the military could be so brazen as to discuss this plot in an open conference is one for Ripley's. The military is an old institution with ways that have been set for generations, and it does not operate that way. Consider especially that those times the unidentified "generals" were referring to were critical, with media always sniffing around. Would that secret have been kept for so long? Those "generals" should come out and identify themselves or forever hold their peace as bluffers.

* * *

In the battle for the Senate presidency, the irony is that while GO won the senatorial elections, its senators can't get the majority, as they are quarrelling among themselves. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. is the choice of the LP faction led by Sen. Mar Roxas, as well as by Sen. Ping Lacson, both of whom have presidential ambitions. Pimentel himself appears to be a reluctant candidate, doubtless because he realizes he's only a proxy for his two colleagues. Senate President Manuel Villar, always a plodder, is said to be working hard behind the scenes to retain the top post. But neither he nor Pimentel can get it without the support of the administration bloc, which remains solid. That bloc, which can count up to nine members if Zubiri is proclaimed, is just watching the battle of the giants now, fully aware of its potential as a swing vote. Recall that in the past Congress the "Wednesday Group" of former House members and Sen. Noli de Castro numbered only five, but they were able to control the power flow.

* * *

Reports of alleged extortion activities of some members of the Commission on Appointments surfaced when outgoing Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves claimed that his son, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, was asked to fork over P5 million in exchange for his confirmation. The Teveses said they refused to give the money, but their disclosure was enough to implicate some members of the House. Rep. Prospero Pichay, the House CA panel chair, has denied any wrong-doing, but former member Rolex Suplico admitted that he had asked Teves to replace the LandBank manager in his province, whom he accused of making illegal disbursements to the provincial government. Teves' refusal to act led to his being bypassed by the CA. The reports have triggered calls for an investigation, but this can be undertaken by the House committee on ethics, if at all, only after 14th Congress opens in the last week of July, because technically the House will be leaderless for three weeks starting June 30.

* * *

For now Congress members choose to split hairs between "favors sought" from executive nominees and plain out and out "extortion." Some House members I spoke with prefer to look at these activities as part of the usual "horse-trading" and "wheeling and dealing" that have been going for decades. In fact, some House members wonder why the elder Teves, a veteran politician, is making a big fuss over it.

Among the most common favors sought by politicians are appointments for their followers, good assignments for helpful PNP officers or promotions for favored military officers. Or it could be the grant of franchises, business concessions or projects for their districts—the shopping list could be limitless. Before the nominee faces the CA, usually these are "*planchado na*" in the sub-committees.

* * *

But House members stress that the qualification of the nominees ought to supersede considerations of "favors." It becomes extortion, they argue, when a nominee's confirmation is blocked because he failed to cough up or if he is confirmed despite the lack of qualification because he delivered the "goods." The ideal situation is to confirm the nominee purely on the basis of merit, but in reality this seldom happens. There is always horse-trading, which seems to worsen as the quality of the legislators goes down.

* * *

Each of the 24 seats in the CA is powerful because it takes only a single vote to block the confirmation of an appointment. Any delay in confirmation could be quite damaging to the careers of military and police officers, who have to contend with fierce rivalry within their ranks. So powerful is each CA seat that it's said to be equivalent to a committee chairmanship, which is why the politicians fight tooth and nail for it. The distribution of CA seats has always been part and parcel of the hard bargaining among major political parties. But the opposition always gets a seat.

The way of 'he' in Nanjing

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

NANJING, CHINA—"O GOD, WITH A THOUsand names," I could have invoked.

What is striking about this picture? Close to 200 eminent persons belonging to and professing different religious faiths, as well as eminent persons not professing any faith, gathered together at the 3rd Asia-Europe Interfaith Dialogue in Nanjing, China last week. (Two previous ones had been held in Bali and Larnaca.) They came from 39 Asian and European countries. Diplomats and government officials outnumbered the religious leaders and civil society representatives. The majority (124 of 158 official delegates, or 78.5 percent) were men.

During the three days that they were gathered, no prayers were said, no chants were heard, no outward display of religiosity was seen. There were no common rituals (usually musts in multi-religious, multi-cultural gatherings I have attended in the past).

I must note that, in contrast, Filipinos (the women especially) are big on rituals when it comes to ecumenical faith gatherings, no matter how tense and serious these are. In the Philippines, we usually start off with priests, imams, pastors, nuns and lay leaders leading the opening prayers. Especially in so-called interfaith dialogues.

There was none of the above in Nanjing. That's what struck me. Those are externals (internal?), you might say. Well, I thought prayer—communal and personal—was basic to all faiths, a wellspring from which understanding, peace and goodwill could flow forth. For prayer is the language of the heart. In Nanjing, the language was diplomatese.

Prayer was not on the agenda in this dialogue. Talk was the thing. So was listening. And the flow of things had been pretty much decided on by the main sponsors, China and Italy. Veterans of assemblies know how these things are conducted and how closing statements and resolutions are arrived at, if you know what I mean.

And as journalists invited to attend (we weren't participants), we could only observe. But before the big three-day interfaith event, we had our own small Asia-Europe journalists' colloquium where our topic was interfaith issues too. And we had our own intercultural bonding.

The main event began with the delegates visiting three religious sites: a mosque, a Buddhist temple where orange-robed monks came out in full force, and Amity Printing, a huge facility where Bibles in different languages are printed. I must say that the Chinese government pulled out all the stops to showcase what they have in the interfaith department.

The out-of-Nanjing trip to picturesque Yangzhou was a treat and one hoped dialogue was going on even during the boat rides on the lake. Some of us wanted to go to the Nanjing Massacre museum during the breaks, but it was undergoing renovation. (The Japanese pillaged Nanjing and killed 300,000 in 1937.)

China which has a population of more than 1 billion has four major religions: Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Christianity (Catholicism and Protestantism) with membership of over 100 million. The state-approved Catholic Church has not yet merged with the "underground" Church which is loyal to the Vatican. I spoke with the rector of the Catholic seminary and he told me the applicants are many. I will be interviewing him by e-mail.

So, what were the main issues tackled? Interfaith dialogue (IFD) and globalization, IFD and peace, IFD and social cohesion and development, IFD and the promotion of cultural and education cooperation.

Globalization was closed to journalists, but we managed to sneak in. We hopped over to social cohesion and development which turned out to be livelier. Bishop Ephraim Tendero, director of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, managed to put into the statement (with great effort, I must say) the issue of immoral loans that poor countries are forced to pay back with the blood of their people. I hope it is not stricken out in the final version.

One of the plenary speakers, Philippine delegation head Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez of South Cotabato and chair of the Interfaith Commission, left a lasting impression with his emphasis on dialogue at the grassroots. He made the word grassroots a byword and stressed the importance of implementing peace initiatives at the local community level.

For it is at the grassroots that real life happens, where strife and harmony are played out. "We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another," Gutierrez said, quoting Jonathan Swift.

An interesting footnote: It was decided that interfaith dialogue should include those who do not belong to or do not profess any religious faith. Atheists are also believers in something. Was this a concession to the "godless" communist government of China?

By the end of the week, Chinese food was coming out of our ears, but I know I will miss it soon. I will also miss the staple words: peace, harmony, integration, inculturation, understanding, respect, dialogue, tolerance.

With all these words swimming in my head, I was still able to catch something from the closing remarks of Ye Xiaowen, state minister for religious affairs. He spoke about the spirit of *he*.

Chinese religion, he said, is immersed in the way of *he*, which is to seek understanding through dialogue and coexist in peace, jointly address problems and achieve common development. In the supreme state of *he*, everyone manifests beauty and goodness while appreciating and allowing all kinds of beauty and goodness to coexist in order to achieve a unified world.

Here's to the spirit of *he*.

(Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph)

It's up to the Supremes

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

TEAM UNITY STARTED IT. WHEN ITS SPOKESman Tonypet Albano (who seems to have disappeared) boasted that the administration senatorial slate obtained 12-0 in the province, he never produced any proof. The only proof was the say-so of provincial officials, which is no proof at all. The proof should have consisted of papers, but neither he nor the provincial leaders waved them around, though they were entitled to copies.

How could they? Lintang Bedol says the documents were stolen. Including the copies of election results that the law says should be given to electoral watchdogs. Ask Namfrel. Ask the PPCRV. So they can't say, one way or another, if any other set of documents being, belatedly, waved around by officials are genuine or not. Yet the law mandates that they be given copies, precisely to provide a means to determine whether or not the election results have a basis in fact and weren't manufactured.

The Comelec chairman himself said the claims of a 12-0 sweep were "statistically improbable," the improbability being based on 19 senatorial candidates getting no votes at all in all of the province's 22 municipalities. As a former judge, Benjamin Abalos knows that making such an observation in public has legal consequences: the Supreme Court, for one, can take judicial notice of the statement. Abalos' observation leaves the door wide open for the application of the Lagumbay Doctrine, which says that when the number of registered voters does not match the community's voting population, the votes should be invalidated. Candidates not getting any votes at all might be another kind of statistical improbability to which the doctrine could be applied.

One observer has noted that the Comelec, in the past, was told by the Supreme Court that where fraud is so palpable from the election return itself—that is, *res ipsa loquitur* (the thing speaks for itself)—the poll body can determine if a statistical improbability took place.

This brings us back to Bedol, the missing election documents, and the other set of documents the Comelec says it recovered.

What were stolen from Bedol were the provincial certificate of canvass and the first copies of the Municipal Certificates of Canvass (MCOCs). What the Comelec gathered were the second copies of the MCOCs, or the ones pasted on the wall. But the provincial COC remains lost and the MCOCs belatedly brought forward can't be compared to any provincial COC or the watchdog documents—or copies for the political parties—which have never been provided, because they disappeared. This situation speaks for itself.

So now, the second copies of the MCOCs are being tabulated by the Special Board of Canvassers convened in Maguindanao. The board is taking on the role that would normally be played by the Provincial Board of Canvassers, which would then submit a report to the National Board of Canvassers in Manila. But why a special board is substituting for the provincial board and on the basis of what authority are juicy questions themselves.

Meanwhile, in Maguindanao, for every objection made, the special board has been saying: Sorry, we're only here to add things up; take your questions to the national board in Manila. They're counting fast, so they can produce a report, which will say: based on the documents (which we did not look into, in terms of their contents, because your honors from Manila said they looked OK, and it is not up to us to figure out on what basis you said so), the following candidates got such-and-such votes in Maguindanao.

The Comelec, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers in Manila, in the meantime, is anxiously watching the clock. They have a deadline to meet, which is the beginning of the term of the newly-elected senators on June 30. By that date, the Comelec can say that based on past precedents, it needs to proclaim all the senators-elect.

No time to make its own determination, it can say. It can then accept the report of the Maguindanao special board, and say: Let these results be added to the national total, and based on the national total, let us fill the final vacancy in the Senate. Any objections? The Comelec can say: Sorry, but this is not the proper forum. Republic Act 7166, the Synchronized Elections Act, says that for senators, "no pre-proclamation cases shall be allowed on matters relating to the preparation, transmission, receipt, custody and appreciation of the election returns or the certificates of canvass, as the case may be."

But the Comelec had every chance, and all the necessary authority, to do the counting and appreciation of documents conscientiously. But sorry, the clock's ticking. We shall proclaim now, everyone can sort it out later. The special board said it couldn't attend to questions or objections? Neither can we, because we have to meet the deadline, and proclaim someone, anyone, under whatever circumstances, suspicious or not, the 12th senator-elect for 2007. Blame it on Bedol. Blame it on our special board. Blame the people of Maguindanao. Pontius Pilate would have been proud. Gotcha! Pass the hot potato and let it land on the Senate Electoral Tribunal's lap!

As Ferdinand Marcos loved to say, "Aw, c'mon." The Supreme Court can't permit itself to be led around by the nose like this.

The Supreme Court spokesman urged the Comelec not to make any appeal "moot and academic" until it hears both sides. But if the national board, upon receipt of the special provincial board's report, accepts it, and makes a proclamation—to meet the June 30 start of term—the Court would have been outfoxed by a Comelec eager to wash its hands of a mess of its own making.

The people of Maguindanao deserve better. The public deserves better. Fair play requires a Supreme Court TRO on the Maguindanao proceedings. Now.

Renewed

YOUNG BLOOD

Stephen Norries A. Padilla

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY FRIENDS AND I EXPERIENCED A SPIRITUAL RENEWAL during the last summer vacation. We all agreed to attend a three-day retreat for the youth in a nearby town one week before the start of classes. The retreat was sponsored by a church organization in our parish.

Since the retreat came free of charge, I did not expect too much from it. I knew more or less why and how retreats are conducted.

When the day came for the start of the retreat, all the preconceptions I had were shattered in an instant. I came prepared to endure less than comfortable accommodations, but I was totally surprised when I saw the other participants. Most of them were younger than me, and I was worried that the difference in our ages would cause conflict among us. Most of them were out-of-school youth, and I wondered about the quality of their participation in the scheduled activities, given their low educational attainment. And since they were out-of-school youth, I knew they came from the lower socioeconomic strata and I was afraid they would behave as shabbily as their shanties looked.

With all these fears and prejudices entering my mind, I actually considered backing out from the spiritual retreat instead of spending three days and two nights in such company. If not for my friends, who were themselves secretly feeling what I felt, I would have packed up my things and returned to the comfort of our home.

But then I remembered that God has a plan for everything and I thought this was His way of testing and teaching me. I decided to stay.

The three days of the retreat quickly passed and before I knew it I had experienced an amazing renewal. I did not feel the spiritual growth I was expecting, but something of greater significance took place: I matured as a person and as a child of God.

My transformation began right on the first day of the retreat. After introducing ourselves, I realized that I was as immature and as silly as they were. I may be older by a year or two, but our love for fun, for learning and for love itself were the same. After all, my generation is also their generation.

We talked a lot, shared a lot. I learned things I would never have learned in my undergraduate studies or even in graduate school. I discovered the resiliency and resourcefulness of the Filipino people in them as well as their sorrows and their joys. I witnessed how they really had fun doing simple things like singing and dancing and how they could laugh together about almost anything.

We ate at one table and slept in one room. I realized that most of the satisfaction we get from having our basic needs fulfilled comes from the affection of the hand that provides them and the people we share them with. Yes I can eat and sleep alone. I can have a feast and rest in my own room if I want to. But these are just byproducts of the love that worked to provide them.

I had come to believe that I was not expecting too much from the things that came my way. But deep inside me, the norms, standards and principles were present even if I refused to acknowledge their existence. Because I was so used to living with them, they became a natural part of me, almost like instincts.

I have another question: How many people in this planet think like me before I stepped into the retreat house? How do I share this lesson with others? And will they learn just by reading or hearing this? Must everyone "suffer" to gain sight of the harsh but beautiful reality? Am I maturing or am I simply getting old when I say these things?

For the time being, I will leave these questions unanswered because there is another thing that disturbs me: Is it instinctive also for a civilized or, at least, an educated person to bear this burden? Right now I strongly feel I should reach out to others, especially those who are poor, and somehow help lift them out of their sad situation. But the bigger question is: How do you help someone who is not asking for help?

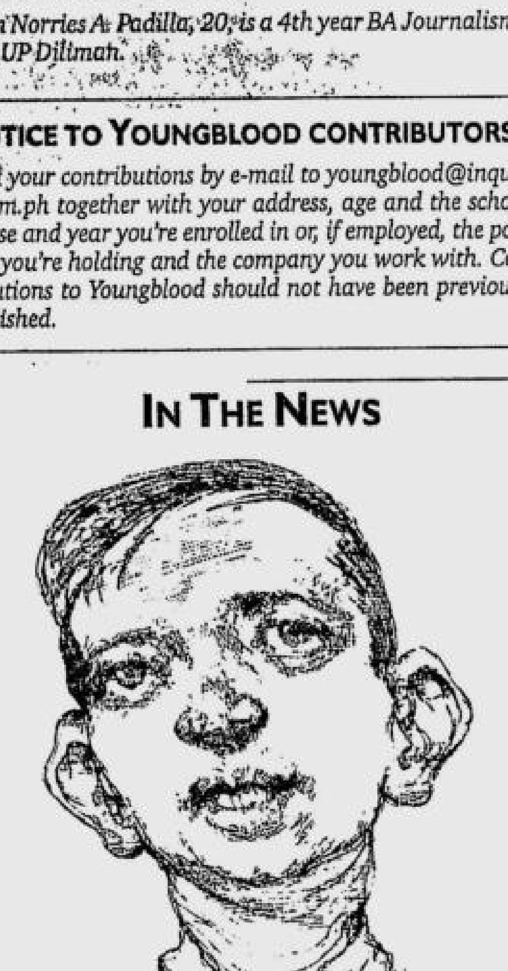
I guess I should not expect too much from myself lest I lose sight of reality.

Stephen Norries A. Padilla, 20, is a 4th year BA Journalism student at UP Diliman.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS



Senator-elect Antonio Trillanes

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Payback time but not for children's benefit

THE ELECTION IS OVER. NOW IT'S payback time. Loyal allies must be rewarded and so former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos will be free in a few months' time. For child rights advocates who fought for his conviction for the rape of an 11-year-old girl then, the commutation of Jalosjos' life sentence, by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo (who brags she is child-friendly), is a blatant act of disrespect for all Filipino children.

During the last election, one propaganda line the administration used was "PARA SA KIDZ MO" to recall the names of the Team Unity senatorial candidates. But how can the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo say it's "PARA SA KIDZ MO," when the message it's sending out to the public is "our allies are more important than your children's rights"? This once more proves that the campaign ads and other so-called programs/advocacies of this present government for the children are just lip-service.

To follow the argument of the government, especially Secretary Ignacio Bunye's statement that the commutation of Jaloslos' sentence is a way of decongesting jails is nonsense. The best way to decongest jails in our country is to set free the minors who are languishing in jails designed for adult criminals like Jaloslos. It will be the speedy resolution of the cases of minors involved in heinous crimes and an effective rehabilitation program—not the release of a convicted child-rapist—that will decongest the jails.

There are also many innocent people who have not committed crimes but are languishing in jail due to their political beliefs. Children and minors are not spared from this kind of treatment by law enforcers and the existing justice system. At present, 10 men, who were minors when they were arrested, are still languishing in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan just because they were suspected to be Abu Sayyaf members. For more than six years, they were locked up in the maximum security compound together with adult detainees, and after all those years they are until now waiting for their trials. Relatives, neighbors and friends attest that they were minors helping their families work the farms when they were arrested.

Unfortunately for all these minors and other innocent prisoners, they do not have Jalosjos' political and economic stature. Justice, it seems, is only for the rich allies of the government in power and for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's political survival. Unfortunately for all of us, we have a government that only remembers children's rights and welfare only during elections.

—ALPHONSE RIVERA,
officer in charge,
Salinlahi,
Alliance For Children's Concerns,
21-A1 Malvar Ext.,
Project 4, Quezon City

DPWH's claim to 'world-class' record belied

THIS REFERS TO THE FULL-PAGE AD published in connection with the 109th anniversary of the Department of Public Works and Highways. (INQUIRER, 6/22/07)

The ad states: "As such, it (DPWH) serves as the linchpin of major infrastructure projects, many of them hailed as world-class engineering achievements." This is not true in the Cordillera Autonomous Region and of the Mountain Province District Engineering Office. The "flagship projects" of President Macapagal-Arroyo in that province have been turned into a "world-class engineering stupidity" by "glaring substandard engineering work" and "mega-overpricing" of project materials. Not only that, the contracts are highly questionable, yet payment for them has been collected by the contractors. A number of the projects have overshot their deadlines; some of them have not even been started yet. The projects are making a mockery of the President's sincere desire to improve the roads in the Mountain Province.

"Provide potable water to waterless communities?" This is not true in Bontoc, Mountain Province. The P70-million plus Bontoc Water System was bid out and awarded in January 2005 (phases 1-6). To date, phases 1 and 6 have yet to be started. So is the Namatec, Sabangan Water System, and it's almost a year since the project contract was awarded to the winning bidder.

We hope that the President will impose her will on the contractors and government officials concerned. We hope that she will show to these people that graft and corruption does not pay. It would not need an expert investigator to prove that the projects are tainted with anomalies.

—JUNIPER C. DOMINGUEZ
Sabangan, Mountain Province,
dalas812571@yahoo.com

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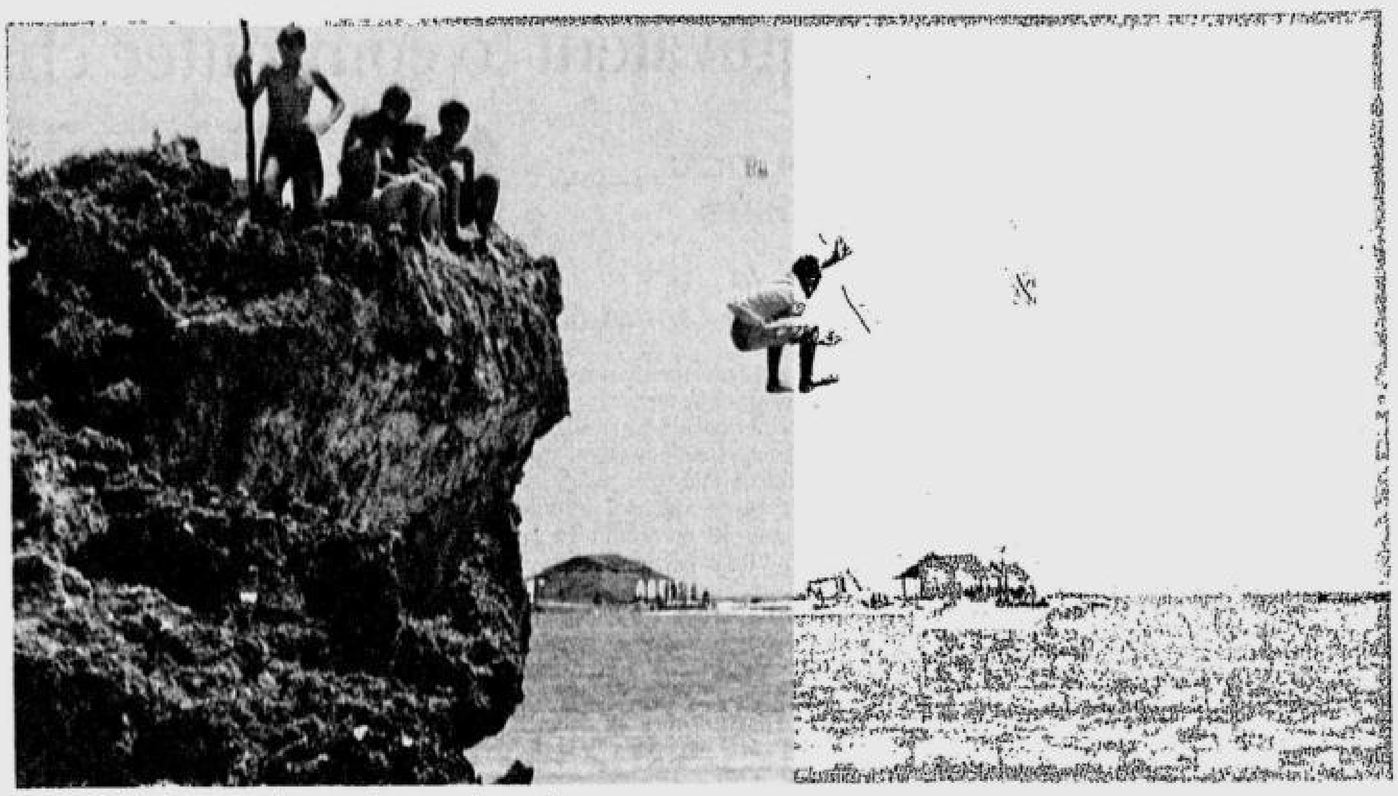

A SPLASH in Boracay always makes a cool experience.

Stop calling Boracay island 'Bora'—local media told

PLEASE HELP US PROTECT THE GOOD name "Boracay" by not calling the island "Bora." It is not cool and hip anymore. It is used only by some local media contributors who continuously refer to the island as "Bora."

You will never find "Bora" in any international article about Boracay. No one in Boracay calls the place that way. It took the Department of Tourism many years of marketing efforts to put Boracay on the international tourism map and Boracay is now a brand name among tourists.

"Bora" is in French Polynesia, and if you "Google" bora, you will never find anything about Boracay. So, writers from "Maka" and "Mani," help us protect our tourism gem.

—PHILIPPE BARTHOLOMI,
pbartholomi@hotmail.com

Alvarez ouster caused by vested interests

THE "HARASS HALLI" COLUMN OF CONrado Banal (INQUIRER, 6/14/07) stated that President Macapagal-Arroyo had to replace former Sen. Heherson Alvarez as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) "because of opposition from NGOs."

Allow us to clarify that Alvarez, the founding chair of the Earth Savers Movement, was replaced as environment secretary not because NGOs opposed his appointment but because of the fierce lobbying and black propaganda (through media) engaged in by disgruntled vested interest groups against Alvarez. However, he was vindicated by no less than the Supreme Court in many of the cases he fought for as environment secretary, among them, the controversial case filed by Picop, the country's largest logging concession.

In November 2006, the high court upheld a decision of Alvarez in 2001, in which he refused to hand over to Picop over 75,000 hectares of forest lands in Mindanao, as raw materials for their paper and pulp production.

At that time, Alvarez insisted that Picop must first put in place environmental safeguards to protect the forests, and pay the necessary forest charges and applicable taxes before it could secure environmental permits—all of which Picop refused to comply with.

Surely, these were not complaining NGOs but vengeful vested interest groups who got back at Alvarez when they did not get what they wanted,

—ROGER BIROSEL, secretary general,
Earth Savers Movement

PlunderWatch explains stand on Estrada trial

THIS IS IN REACTION TO INQUIRER'S June 21 editorial.

The allegation that I and PlunderWatch "kept away" from Estrada's plunder trial due to a "tactical alliance" with the latter is untrue and unfair.

PlunderWatch and Bayan have not given up on their stand against plunder, be it by Estrada or any other government official, past, present or future.

PlunderWatch filed a case with the Ombudsman against Estrada on the belief there were enough grounds to hold him liable for the crime of plunder and to give him his day in court.

Through the early years of the trial, it insisted that no special treatment be given the accused, especially in exchange for some political accommodation with Malacañang.

Deprived of access to information on how the case would be prosecuted, what critical junctures were anticipated and when mass protest and expert opinion were most needed, PlunderWatch was eventually shut out from the case by the prosecution itself. Its views were not sought; its interventions, not welcomed.

We arrived at the conclusion that the case against Estrada was being tried on the basis of carrot-and-stick tactics; that Malacañang, with its "blow hot, blow cold" signals, was using the trial as a means to force Estrada to accede to its political agenda. Subsequently, we refused to be a party to the farcical and tainted trial proceedings.

Toward the end of 2003, PlunderWatch altogether stopped attending the Sandiganbayan trial. Most of the individuals and groups that composed it, including Bayan, found themselves having to address the more pressing issues spawned by the Arroyo regime—the worsening cases of corruption and plunder, the systematic and nationwide slaughter of activists, and the government's almost total subservience to the United States and foreign monopolies. The rallies held by a broad array of political forces calling for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster, after the "Garci tapes" scandal broke out, marked the first time that Bayan member organizations and leaders joined with personalities and groups identified with Estrada.

The principled position and actions of PlunderWatch have been documented for anyone to scrutinize and take issue with. Neither PlunderWatch nor Bayan has compromised their stand on the Estrada plunder case. Certainly not for any imagined monetary or political considerations.

Is Estrada guilty of the crime of plunder? That was supposed to be determined through a fair and honest trial by an independent court of law. PlunderWatch did its part: it filed the case and tried its best to support the prosecution and keep the public vigilant. But given the flawed and highly tainted Sandiganbayan trial, it is now difficult to achieve justice or even arrive at a credible resolution of the case.

Clearly, a conviction at this point will not serve to deter corrupt government officials who today abuse their power, cover up their crimes and maintain their most illegitimate rule.

—DR. CAROL P. ARAULLO, convenor,
PlunderWatch and chair, Bayan

Train food servers to be more hygienic

CUSTOMERS OF FAST-FOOD CHAINS BEware. Aside from the danger of developing heart disease and diabetes from the cholesterol and sugar-loaded menu that fast-food chains usually offer, what you order may be as dirty as street food. This is shocking but true.

Observe for yourself: In most of these establishments, one thing is consistent. All day long, the counter person taking the customer's order also handles the money and the food and utensils. With a smile and "Enjoy your meal!" cheer, he/she never seems to learn to avoid dropping the customer's change and the receipt on the food tray and utensils.

I have so many times caught food servers doing this and I have lost count of the instances I've asked fast-food managers to train their people to be more hygienic. It has become futile to complain and the reason is "employee contractualization." By the time the food servers gain enough experience to know better, they are replaced with a new batch of untrained employees. It's a perpetual cycle in our country's fast-food industry.

The Department of Trade and Industry and, most especially, the Department of Health should issue an advisory, warning people on the health risks they're exposed to when eating at fast-food outlets that don't take measures to lessen direct contact between money and food. Bank tellers, aware that money may be tainted with germs and diseases, always wash their hands with alcohol. Why can't fast food people exercise the same caution?

Fast-food servers these days are trained more to be quick but not so much to be careful and hygiene-conscious.

For those who can't resist eating in fast-food outlets, here is one useful tip for your personal protection: Cover your "styro-pack" carefully and pick up your food utensils from the tray before the counter clerk has the chance to put down your change and receipt on top of them. As bonus, when they see the napkin and utensils missing from the tray they'll give you another.

—REYNALDO K. LIRIOS,
167 Gen. Ordoñez St.,
Marikina Heights,
Marikina City

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INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
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Fish cages ruin Taal Lake's beauty

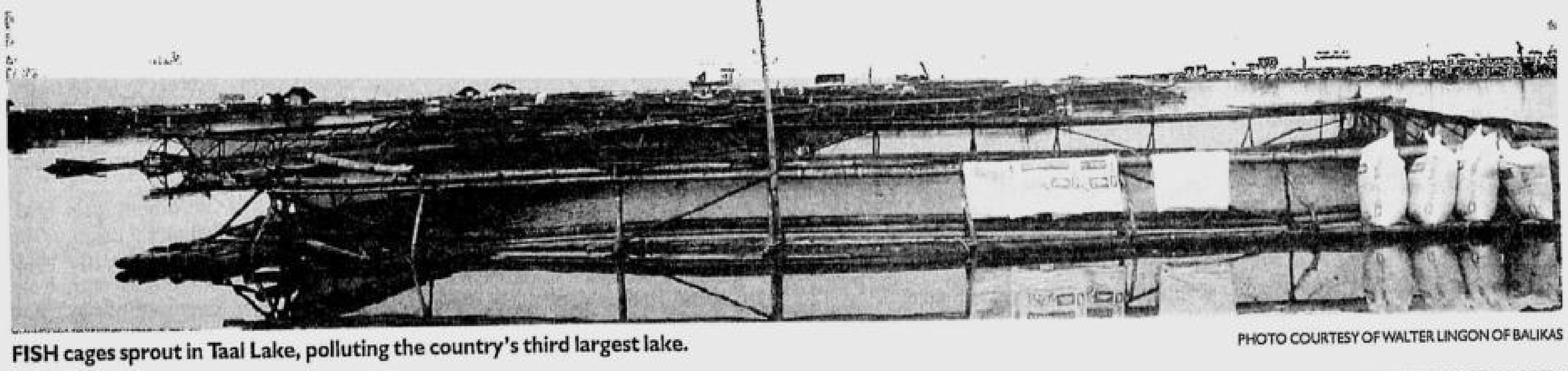
By Marlon Alexander Luistro
Mataas na Kahoy, Batangas

RESIDENTS OF MATAAS NA Kahoy town in Batangas can't forget Taal Lake's glorious past: people swimming and bathing in pristine waters, fish jumping in the tide to the delight of tourists, and fishermen rowing boats to get their catch.

"The lake water was so fresh and crystal-clear that I could even use it as a mirror," said Mario Gonzales, a fisherman from Barangay Nangkaan. "There was no unpleasant smell, the wind was so refreshing, and we could fish anywhere we want."

Today, the third largest lake in the country—after the Laguna and Lanao—is murky. Some of its endemic species are gone and navigating anywhere in the expanse is impossible because of too many fish cages.

Located 70 kilometers south of Metro Manila, the lake is the *caldera* or giant crater of Taal Volcano, which has erupted 34 times since 1572. It prides itself as the habitat of the endemic species *tawilis*, the world's only commercial freshwater herring; *maliputo*, a migratory fish; and *duhol*, a native sea snake.



FISH cages sprout in Taal Lake, polluting the country's third largest lake.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALTER LINGON OF BALIKAS

Fish cage culture

Inspired by the rapid development of fish cage and fish pen culture in the Laguna Lake, *tilapia* farming in fish cages was introduced in Taal Lake in the 1970s.

The business has flourished and now supplies at least 40 percent of the *tilapia* demand in the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon), according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Most of the settlers earn a living from *tilapia* culture in cages.

Napoleon Carandang, 45, manages four 100-square-meter cages, with around 25,000 fries each. It takes five months to harvest the *tilapia*.

"Our job is simple. We just have to feed the fish thrice a day and wait until we harvest them and later earn from P10,000 to P40,000," Carandang said.

Tilapia culture is a profitable enterprise entailing not much capital investment, except labor.

Pollution

The growing number of fish cages, however, is alarming lakeshore residents, particularly small fishermen. BFAR records showed that the number of fish cages increased from 1,601 in 1993 to 9,692 in March last year.

Eufemio Lubi, president of the Kilusan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Lawa ng Taal in Mataas na Kahoy, suspected that the lake's murky waters had been caused by too many fish cages and the foul odor had come from unconsumed *tilapia* feeds and feces.

"With the arrival of fish cages, the lake water has become dirty. The wind is very hot and we have to bear with the unpleasant smell in the surroundings. Every afternoon during summer, water turns from greenish-blue to red," Lubi said.

"It's very itchy to bathe there," he added.

While the fish cages have brought jobs to residents, they have contributed to environmental destruction and even displaced small fishermen, Lubi said. They have destroyed traditional fishing grounds, he said.

Armed cage guards usually mistake fisherfolk for "stealers of *tilapia*," he added.

Lubi called on authorities to enforce ordinances and regulate the number of fish cages to save the lake from further deterioration.

"While this has been my livelihood, I must admit that it is the one causing pollution. But we have no choice. If ever the government would displace us, they should give us at least an alternative job," said Vicente Llona, referring to fish cage operations.

Unified rules

The Taal Lake and Taal Volcano were declared protected areas in 1997 through the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 906.

The Protected Areas Management Board (PAMB), which is tasked with managing the lake, has approved the Unified Rules and Regulations for Fisheries (URRF), limiting the number of fish cages in the lake.

The URRF also designate fish cage zones and sanctuary areas, regulate the use of fishing gears, and implement other laws pertaining to the lake's biological diversity conservation.

Luvimin Gito, protected areas supervisor of Taal Lake, said the mayors had already signed a covenant to protect and conserve the lake.

"What is important is that there is an existing initiative of the government to regulate the cages but for humanitarian considerations we cannot do it overnight. We are not only concerned with income (from fish cages) but we are also thinking of the lake's preservation," said Talisay municipal administrator Eddie Panghulan.

The URRF designates only Barangays Aya, Quiling, Tumaway and Sampaloc in Talisay as fish cage zones. But other areas with fish cages include barangays on the volcano island, such as Pulo, Balantoc, Panikian, Pirapiraso and Tabla.

The URRF will effectively become a law upon the approval of Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Maguindanao, Trillanes and other Senate woes

By Francisco S. Tatad

At noon of June 30, twelve newly elected senators will begin their six-year term of office. But unless the responsible parties act now, only eleven senators will be sworn in that day. This should not happen at all.

All eyes are now on Maguindanao. Its votes will decide the fight for twelfth place between Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III of "Genuine Opposition" and Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri of Team Unity.

Both are from Mindanao, and running for the Senate for the first time. Zubiri has served three successful terms as congressman of the third district of Bukidnon, while Koko has failed in his maiden political bid. This happened in 2001, when he ran for mayor of Cagayan de Oro, while his father Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr was Senate President.

As of now, Koko leads Zubiri by a little over 100,000 votes in the national count, minus Maguindanao. But in Cagayan de Oro itself, Zubiri placed third, while Pimentel landed sixth only. In the 21 municipalities of Maguindanao, the certificates of canvass (CoCs) show 186,518 votes for Zubiri, and 58,622 votes for Pimentel. The 127,896 margin should put Zubiri ahead of Pimentel by at least 16,000 votes.

Pimentel has asked the Supreme Court to restrain the Commission on Elections from canvassing the Maguindanao CoCs. But the Court has declined to do so. It simply scheduled oral arguments on June 28, which is cutting it too close to June 30. So not having been ordered to stop, the Comelec has proceeded to canvass the CoCs.

Were the Maguindanao CoCs to be excluded, a new election would have to be called in the area, to decide who would be the twelfth senator. Otherwise, the whole of Maguindanao would be completely disenfranchised as far as the senatorial race is concerned.

But how would that affect the local officials who would have assumed office by then? Would the Court split the May 14 ballot in Maguindanao, and declare the votes for the local candidates are valid but not the votes for the senators?

That would create a nasty constitutional and political situation which would not be easy to resolve. It appears that the best remedy for Pimentel, should he finally lose, is to do what Fernando Poe, Jr. did, after losing the 2004 presidential elections, which millions believed he had won.

Even if Koko should finally lose, he would still be serving the Senate, and even better, by saving it from a second political dynasty, after the Cayetanos. Were he to make it, the Senate would have two Pimentels, and bearing the same names too. This would present a daily problem to the presiding officer, and no one would be obliged to take us seriously anymore.

As of now, the Senate has to contend with two Cayetanos. Not all the voters saw this anomaly before the elections. Many, if not most, of those who had voted for Rep. Alan Cayetano were those who genuinely admired his showmanship in the failed impeachment debates and his uncanny ability to get the goat of the First Gentleman, Mr. Mike Arroyo. Many were not aware there was already a Senator Pia Cayetano. But now they know.

What is to be done then? Since more people seem to be aware of Alan's political prowess than that of his sister Pia, there should be no harm in Pia resigning *motu proprio* or going on a permanent leave of absence without pay. This would require character, but there is nothing to prevent those who voted for her in 2004 to ask her to consider it seriously.

What to do with Senator Antonio Trillanes IV is the Senate's next problem. He and former Senator Gregorio Honasan ran for the Senate while under detention for their alleged role in the aborted 2003 Oakwood Mutiny. Honasan had been granted bail before the election, and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales has now moved for the dropping of the charges against him on the ground of weak evidence.

But the administration seems resolved to keep Trillanes in jail even while the Senate is in session. This may be constitutionally debatable, and it may not be the wisest move for the administration. It could make Trillanes bigger than himself and the administration more unpopular than it needs to be.

Time will tell whether the people acted wisely or foolishly in making Trillanes senator. But his election does remove any risk of flight from the court's jurisdiction. The state would, therefore, be well advised to grant him bail so that he could perform his official duties well. This is the only way people will know if they did right or not in sending him to this formerly august chamber. It would also soften the image of the administration.

Now, despite the numerical superiority of the opposition, they will not necessarily be united in electing the next Senate President. Conflicting ambitions for 2010 will tend to divide its members. What is likely to emerge is a coalition president, who can play with everyone. It will be the old values-free politics as usual.

How the Senate will conduct its inquiries in aid of legislation remains an all-important question. Some senators-elect have already announced their desire to ride high on their investigations. The chairmanship of the Blue Ribbon committee will be critical.

At one time, then Senate president Neptali Gonzales had suggested the possibility of abolishing the Blue Ribbon committee on the ground that it tended to divert the work of the senators from legislative work to police-type investigations. Senator Ernesto Maceda objected, saying it would render the Senate powerless vis-à-vis the President. Not only did the committee stay, other committees became equally aggressive in conducting inquiries that tended to look more like criminal proceedings.

The Senate would regain much of its lost dignity and prestige, if its committees conducted their inquiries in aid of legislation in the most suitable manner, without arrogant and uncouth members browbeating invited guests and making a mockery of basic human civility and correct parliamentary usage, and if it began to debate more ideas, not just exposes, in committee and on the floor.

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Soldiers nab teeners in Abra; Army says it's to protect them

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—RESIDENTS OF Tubo, Abra, have accused the military of abducting six teenagers from their town.

Tubo Mayor Wilma Gattud said the four girls in the group were released last week while the two boys were fetched on Monday by elders in a military detachment in Lagangilang town, where they stayed for 11 days.

Gattud said the residents believed that the teenagers, whose aged 15 to 18, were abducted by soldiers along the Bangaan-Buasao-Kili trail in the boundary of Sagada, Mt. Province, and Tubo.

Former Sagada Mayor Thomas Killip, presidential assistant for Cordillera affairs, said the soldiers met the teenagers while patrolling the mountains and suspected them of being members of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

Killip said the teenagers came from the Bangaan National High School in Sagada and were returning to Tubo on June 15 when the soldiers took them.

"They probably wanted to enroll in Sagada because of the constant fighting between government troops and communist rebels in Tubo. Unfortunately, when they returned to Kili, they were intercepted," he said.

"The village of Kili, with the help of the neighboring villages in northern Sagada, organized teams to find the missing schoolchildren. Later, they found that soldiers detained the children at a military camp in Lagangilang," Simon "Ka Filiw" Naogsan, spokesperson of the Cordillera Peoples Democratic Front, said in a letter sent by e-mail.

"The [soldiers] refused to release the children despite pleas from village residents."

Naogsan said the soldiers subjected the children to "physical and psychological torture."

Capt. Edmond de los Santos, commander of the 503rd brigade of the Army's 5th Infantry Division, denied that soldiers abducted the teenagers.

They took them in custody to protect them from being harmed in sporadic clashes between NPA rebels and government soldiers along that mountain trail, he said.

"Nobody was held inside the military camp. The children stayed with [the soldiers] in the mountains for their safety. We got them out of harm's way," De los Santos told the INQUIRER by telephone on Tuesday.

He said the two boys stayed with the soldiers in the mountains of Barangay Baclingayan in Tubo.

Asked why the boys remained in military custody for 11 days, De los Santos said: "The number of days was immaterial. What was important was the intention to keep them safe."

He said the children were healthy when they were returned to their parents.

EDWIN BACASMAS

COMELEC CHAIR Benjamin Abalos checks ballot boxes in controversy-ridden elections in Maguindanao. Pressure was heavy on some election officers.

Bossi kidnappers demand ₱15M in ransom, says leader of MILF

KIDAPAWAN CITY—MORO GUNMEN HOLDING Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi are demanding P15 million in ransom, according to a leader of the separatist guerrilla group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Mohaqher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, said MILF guerrillas relayed the demand to his group.

Bossi, 57, was taken at gunpoint on his way to celebrate Mass in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay, on June 10.

Authorities said his captors brought him to Lanao del Norte but had not made contact.

"They are demanding P15 million for Bossi's freedom," he said without saying when and how the demand was relayed.

"But as far as we are concerned, we don't entertain ransom demands from the kidnappers. Although in the first place, that's their motive (for seizing the priest)."

A ranking police officer in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao said the police also received the same report on the ransom demand.

"What we know is that they are demanding ransom, but it was not specified how much," said the officer, who talked on condition that he not be identified for lack of authority to speak on the matter.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, chair of a government-MILF group that is tracking the kidnappers, said he was not aware of the ransom demand.

Earlier, Dolorfino said a government emissary relayed a request for medicines for Bossi, who suffers from hypertension.

Iqbal said the MILF, which has volunteered to help rescue Bossi, was still trying to locate the exact hiding place of the kidnappers.

He said the kidnappers were "highly mobile, that's why it's difficult to track them down."

The group was reported to be in Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao del Norte, but other sources said Bossi was taken to Lanao del Sur.

"We are not going to stop, all we need is to see all the different situations in a positive way. We have to be very optimistic all the time," said Dolorfino.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said MILF guerrillas were keeping watch.

"Our forces are sleepless, sometimes without food and exposed to rain and sun, just to make sure that no one will slip out of the areas they are securing," he said.

Kabalu said that what made the task difficult for the MILF was that the guerrillas were "left out of the information and negotiation efforts."

In Zamboanga City, Fr. Gianni Battista Sandalo, Bossi's superior, said he and the other priests had learned to be patient as the search for Bossi remained fruitless.

"We have been trying to be upbeat, especially in dealing with the family of Bossi (in Abbiategrasso). We have to paint great and beautiful pictures of what is being done by our authorities here (because) once they hear something good, it eases (their worries), but telling them a different situation pained all of us here," he said.

Dolorfino reported that he also received information Bossi was still alive. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Quezon poll exec kills self amid pressure

LUCENA CITY—A MUNICIPAL election officer assigned to the island town of Polillo in northern Quezon committed suicide early Tuesday in his house in Catanauan town in the Bondoc Peninsula, police said.

Supt. Renato Alba, Catanauan police chief, identified the victim as Jay Salvacion, 32, of Barangay 9.

Alba said Salvacion was found dead by his wife at about 5:30 a.m. His body was hanging from a rope inside the bathroom in an apparent suicide case.

Police quoted Salvacion's wife as saying that her husband suffered a lot of pressure during the May 14 elections, especially during the canvassing of votes in Polillo.

"There had been a mix-up in the declaration of winners among local candidates," Alba told the INQUIRER over the phone.

He said Salvacion, a former Catanauan health officer, had recently returned to his hometown troubled and dejected.

In Biñan, Laguna, pressure from the elections has subsided after Vice Mayor Marlyn Alonte was declared winner in the fiercely contested mayoral elections.

After almost a month of waiting, Alonte was proclaimed at around 6:30 p.m. yesterday with 36,323 votes against Jose Ruben "Cookie" Yatco, son-in-law of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, who got 29,233.

The counting in Biñan resumed on Monday night after the Comelec lifted its suspension on Friday.

Fr. Rene Eriga, provincial head of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, said the 96 percent of votes that showed Alonte winning would have been enough to proclaim her mayor.

The Comelec en banc denied Yatco's petition claiming massive fraud in the town.

"My supporters can now rest," said Alonte in a phone interview.

"We thank the commissioners for being fair even though my rival is a relative of the Comelec chair."

She said the people of Biñan can now move on.

Alonte said one of her key programs was the establishment of a community college that would provide free college education for Biñan residents.

Teresita "Ningning" S. Lazaro was also proclaimed winner in the gubernatorial race.

Comelec provincial supervisor Dioscoro P. Pajutan said Lazaro led by 15,000-30,000 votes over her opponent, Vice Gov. Edwin D.L. Olivarez. *Delfin Mallari Jr., Romulo Ponte and Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

HELPING HAND
Serafin Avila, 19, from the US ship USS Peleliu, fixes electrical lines at the resettlement area built for residents who lost home to Supertyphoon "Reming" in Barangay Travesia, Guinobatan, Albay.

Wealth-in-trash training given Iloilo folk

By David Israel Sinay
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—FAMILIES MAKING a living out of rummaging for usable scraps in the city's waste disposal facility will have to shift to another livelihood that would also depend on garbage.

The city government would soon close the open dump and convert it into a sanitary landfill.

It is teaching some 150 households at the Calajunan dump to undertake recycling, composting, and waste-trading.

"We have organized households to establish collaborative efforts within the community. We divided them to engage in recycling, composting and waste-trading," said engineer Raul Gallo, chief of the Office of the Public Services.

The city government will convert a portion of the 23-hectare Calajunan open dump into a sanitary landfill to comply with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

According to Gallo, the city government is working for the conversion of a 10-hectare area for sanitary landfill. The city is tapping a P240-million loan package for this project, which would be completed by 2009.

Gallo said the city gave P10,000 to the residents as their startup capital.

"We have conducted various seminars for them. We brought them to various materials recovery facilities to observe the profitable employment services they could offer," Gallo said.

The sanitary landfill project's first phase would include site development and programs to promote livelihood development for residents living along the dump.

The site development involves site clearing, perimeter fencing, construction of access roads, installation of landfill gas monitoring system, site grading, and construction of drainage system, among others.

Gallo said private institutions and organizations, such as the Iloilo Business Club and other private individuals, donated money for the purchase of recycling equipment and facilities to be used by the residents.

OUT-OF-school children salvage materials, mostly metal screws and nails, from an old fishing boat in Muelle Loney, Iloilo City to sell to a junk shop.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

₱88-M flyover project runs out of funds

BAGUIO CITY—THE CONTROVERSIAL P88-million flyover project, which even President Macapagal-Arroyo could not stop, has no more funds, and its contractors will need to wait until 2009 to complete it.

Mario Alquiza, Cordillera director of the Department of Public Works and Highways, said they have asked Congress to allocate another P64 million for the project because inflation has increased its cost by more than 100 percent.

The request for funds, however, can only be processed for 2009, he said.

Alquiza blamed the flyover's suddenly expensive construction budget on a group of residents who have been opposing the project since 2001.

Former Mayors Braulio Yaranon and Virginia de Guia and civic leaders Leonora San Agustin and Cecile Afable tried to stop the construction after learning that the project relied on the P44-million savings generated from the rehabilitation of the Marcos Highway.

Ms Arroyo stopped the project in 2005 and directed Alquiza to realign the funds instead to farm-to-market roads and a cable car system for Benguet and Kalinga.

She rescinded the order because of a binding contract with Advance Foundation Specialists (AFS), the flyover contractor.

"She was misled. The President was given the wrong information about the project. It's their [the residents'] fault," Alquiza said.

Yaranon, who refused to sign any permit for the construction during his term, said he would pursue civil cases against the project proponents.

The DPWH originally intended to build an underpass at the junction of Marcos Highway and Kennon Road but failed to get an endorsement from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The DPWH wanted to use the P44-million savings from the Marcos Highway rehab for the project.

The flyover project was also delayed when the DPWH discovered a design flaw that resulted in a narrow bridge. That flaw has been corrected, DPWH said.
Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

PNP: Where's arrest order on Bedol?

From page A1

power of the citizen's arrest.

But Goltiao said the police could only arrest Bedol if they had a copy of the order.

"I can't move. I can't act unless I have in my possession a warrant for his arrest," he said.

A source from Camp Crame also said the Philippine National Police had yet to receive a copy of the arrest order.

Bedol earlier said he was willing to be arrested so that he could answer the charges against him.

But he insisted he was not in hiding and that he had not received any formal summons from the Comelec about the missing election documents.

Even Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the Comelec had not communicated with the PNP on arresting Bedol.

"There's no such request. It's just what I read in the papers," Ermita said.

"The PNP is not really having a focus on a person like Mr. Bedol, knowing that this is a matter for a separate agency such as the authorities in Comelec to address."

He said it was to be expected that the media could easily locate Bedol but it "does not mean that the PNP is remiss in its duties because they are not being asked by Comelec or by court to (locate) Bedol."

Arrest order issued today

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel told a radio station here that it appeared the Comelec order for Bedol's arrest was just for publicity.

"Many are entertaining the idea that the Comelec order to arrest Bedol is just for show because up to now, the police have yet to be furnished with an arrest order so they could have it served," he said.

Pimentel said the Comelec should get its act together if it aimed to clean up its tarnished image.

He said that aside from the arrest order, Bedol should also be prevented from leaving the country.

If arrested, Bedol may be detained at the Manila City Jail in Quiapo, poll officials said.

"We don't have a proper place to confine him here, so we may request the Manila City Jail that he spend his sentence there," Ferrer told reporters.

Be careful with Bedol

The arrest warrant for indirect contempt will be issued by the Comelec law department today, Ferrer said, adding it would be forwarded to the PNP and the National Bureau of Investigation.

Ferrer said anybody could effect a citizen's arrest on Bedol and turn him over to the nearest police outpost but one "should be very careful doing this because he is armed."

At the same time, Ferrer welcomed Bedol's statement that he would show up at the Comelec main office in Manila this week.

"We'll be happy if he does, but we will promptly have him arrested if he comes here," said Ferrer.

In a brief interview over radio station dzBB, Bedol said that he would go to the Comelec in Manila to face the charges against him.

"After my work, I will go there," he said, adding that he still had "a lot of work in Maguindanao" that he needed to finish it before going to Manila.

He said he would also first meet his lawyer to plan his course of action.

Ferrer said that because of Bedol's disobedience, the official had been "deemed guilty" of indirect contempt, which is punishable under Comelec rules with up to 6 months in jail or a P1,000 fine, or both.

Asking for it

Ferrer, head of Task Force Maguindanao that investigated election irregularities in the province, added: "He's asking for cases, we will accommodate him. We are going to show our people that your Comelec is not powerless and we intend to do business."

Bedol earned the ire of the commissioners for refusing to attend its formal investigations as well as failing to submit a written explanation on the disappearance of municipal CoCs which he later said were stolen from his office.

The CoCs ostensibly support administration claims that the Team Unity senatorial ticket had scored a 12-0 win in the province during senatorial elections last month.

Ferrer said the Comelec law department would also file charges of infidelity in the custody of public documents against Bedol before the Manila regional trial court.

The Comelec is also coordinating with the PNP to determine if Bedol could be charged with illegal possession of firearms. Ferrer said the Ombudsman was also free to subject Bedol to a lifestyle check.

The contempt and infidelity cases could be used to initiate administrative chargers against Bedol, Ferrer explained. Once these were filed before the Civil Service Commission, he said, Bedol could already be served a preventive suspension.

"We were placed in a hot spot by an ordinary employee challenging the commission. We were made to look like incompetents, so we have to take an action," Ferrer said. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Migz wins Maguindanao; Koko pins hope on SC ruling

From page A1

Jimenez said these were the same results relayed to him by Comelec staff in the province.

The announcement of the results occurred on the eve of oral arguments at the Supreme Court on a petition by Pimentel for a temporary restraining order (TRO) challenging the canvassing of the Maguindanao votes and asking the high tribunal to exclude them from the national count.

Jimenez said the completion of the provincial canvassing "doesn't mean" that there would be an immediate proclamation of winner in view of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos' statement earlier yesterday that the Comelec would defer to the decision of the high court.

The Maguindanao results released last night showed Team Unity scoring a 12-0 shutout win over GO in the senatorial elections in Maguindanao with Zubiri topping the race.

The opposition has opposed the inclusion of the results in the overall count following disclosures by several school teachers that armed men in one town had forced them to fill out ballots with the names of TU candidates to ensure an administration sweep in Maguindanao during the May 14 polls.

"We are going to fight it out at the National Board of Canvassers and we're hoping that the Supreme Court will issue a TRO," opposition lawyer Leila de Lima told the INQUIRER.

Last hope

Pimentel said: "I really don't care because in the first place I wanted that canvassing in Maguindanao stopped." He said he was now pinning his hopes on the high tribunal.

Zubiri himself indicated to the INQUIRER that the fight was not over.

"I am more worried now because of the SC oral arguments because that could go either way," he said.

Asked if last night's Maguindanao results meant Zubiri had overtaken Pimentel for 12th place, Jimenez said, "Yes."

But Jimenez stressed the results were still unofficial pending confirmation by the Comelec en banc sitting as the National Board of Canvassers, the next step in the tortuous vote counting.

DISPUTED COUNT

1.	Zubiri	195,823.
2.	Singson	195,242
3.	Angara	193,990
4.	Pichay	193,979
5.	Arroyo	193,012
6.	Recto	190,654
7.	Sotto	184,556
8.	Defensor	168,905
9.	Montano	86.305
10.	Kiram	86,122
11.	Magsaysay	85,822
12.	Oreta	83,076
13.	Escudero	81,171
14.	Villar	73.835
15.	Pimentel	67,111
16.	Honasan	64,978
17.	Legarda	64,070
18.	Pangilinan	50,068
19.	Trillanes	2,147

Unofficial tally from 22 towns of Maguindanao as tallied by a special provincial board of canvassers.

Signaling the Court's intention to act with speed, Chief Justice Reynato Puno yesterday said the high tribunal hoped to issue a ruling right after this afternoon's court hearing on Pimentel's plea for a TRO.

Puno said the high tribunal hoped the Comelec would not undercut the court by pushing through with its count.

Abalos signified the poll body's readiness to defer to the court.

The oral arguments on Pimentel's petition are scheduled for 2 p.m. today.

The court has asked the Comelec and Zubiri, if he wishes, to file their comments. It also asked Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera to participate in the arguments.

"Hopefully, yes. I will ask the members of the court if, after the hearing, they are ready to resolve the prayer for the TRO," Puno told reporters when asked if a decision was expected soon after this afternoon's hearing on Pimentel's petition for a TRO.

Puno added: "We're hoping they (Comelec) will give the Supreme Court all the reasonable time to resolve this request for a temporary restraining order."

Asked what the tribunal would do should the Comelec finish canvassing the Maguindanao votes before the court could issue a decision, Puno said: "We'll cross the bridge when we reach it."

NBC is next step

Talking with reporters earlier yesterday, Abalos said the recanvassing of the Maguindanao votes was being done only at the provincial level and that the next step would be for the NBC to make the final tabulation.

"After it reaches the NBC, that is the time we would defer it in deference to this petition now pending before the Supreme Court," Abalos said.

"When the results reach the NBC, maybe that is the time that we would hold it in abeyance."

Delay seen

Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said today's oral arguments were only intended to discuss whether a TRO should be issued or not for the canvass of the Senate votes from Maguindanao.

He said that if a TRO was issued, it would in effect mean that the 12th Senate slot would still be empty by June 30 because the proclamation of a winner would be delayed.

Marquez also said it was unlikely for the high court to issue a decision on the merits of Pimentel's petition by Saturday, June 30.

'Fishing expedition'

Pimentel, in his petition, accused the Comelec of launching a "fishing expedition" by sending a fact-finding team to General Santos City to collect Maguindanao's municipal CoCs after excluding the provincial tally submitted by Bedol.

Pimentel also demanded that the Comelec proclaim the winner for the 12th Senate slot based on the canvass of election results from the rest of the country, without the votes from Maguindanao.

Zubiri wants the winner of the 12th Senate spot declared based on the votes from all provinces, arguing that to exclude Maguindanao would be to disenfranchise its voters. *With a report from Nash Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao*

GMA reappoints CA's 12 bypassed Cabinet members

From page A1

press briefing in Malacañang.

The 12 secretaries were Raul Gonzalez (justice), Margarito Teves (finance), Esperanza Cabral (social welfare), Rolando Andaya (budget), Hermogenes Ebdane (defense), Arthur Yap (agriculture), Nasser Pangandaman (agrarian reform), Angelo Reyes (environment), Ronaldo Puno (interior), Raphael Lotilla (energy), Francisco Duque (health) and Romulo Neri (socioeconomic planning).

Interim appointment

"The practice is for the President to reappoint them, so the President has issued an interim appointment to these 12 who had been bypassed," Ermita said.

Malacañang will resubmit their appointment papers to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation when the 14th Congress opens in late July.

The Constitution vests the President with the power to choose members of the Cabinet and other ranking officials of government, subject, however, to the approval of the Commission on Appointments, a powerful body composed of a select group of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Money, favors

The role played by the Commission on Appointments has been put to scrutiny lately after lawmakers claimed that its members had asked money and other favors from Cabinet members seeking confirmation. *(See related story on Page A2.)*

Teves, a former congressman, said being bypassed by the commission was not much of a concern because what mattered at the end of the day was the President's confidence and trust in him.

"With or without approval (by the commission), the key is whether or not the President wants you to be part of her team," Teves said at a press briefing.

He said he received a letter from Malacañang reappointing him again to the top post at the Department of Finance (DOF).

Without confirmation from the Commission on Appointments, Teves explained, a Cabinet appointee only needed to be reappointed by the President to remain in his or her post.

Pending confirmation by the commission, a reappointment is effective for one year.

Not incompetent, indecisive

Responding to calls from Congress that he resign, Teves said he would not heed such calls unless the President asked him to do so.

"They (critics from Congress) have called me incompetent, indecisive and a weakling. (But) my record as a public servant for more than three decades proves otherwise," Teves said.

He said it was during his stint as president of Land Bank of the Philippines that its net income grew five-fold from P500 million to P2.7 billion from 2000 to 2004.

He said the implementation of the Reformed VAT Law raised P76 billion in additional taxes last year. The law's implementation helped the country gain the confidence of the international capital market, leading to lower interest rates.

Suplico and Pichay

Representatives Rolex Suplico and Prospero Pichay, who both belonged to the House contingent to the CA, have criticized the finance secretary and engaged in a word war with Rep. Herminio Teves, father of the finance chief.

The older Teves alleged that some members of the commission had asked P5 million from him in exchange for the confirmation of his son.

He said the commission members also asked that their friends be given positions at the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs, attached agencies of the DOF.

But Suplico and Pichay denied the allegations.

Suplico, the outgoing representative of Iloilo, was quoted in news reports as saying that the reason he was denying confirmation of the younger Teves was the latter's failure to heed his request that the manager of LandBank in Iloilo be replaced.

Suplico said that manager had engaged in anomalous activities.

Revenue shortfall

Pichay, who ran and lost in the senatorial election, has been quoted as criticizing the younger Teves for his "incompetence," with the shortfall in tax collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

From January to May, the BIR collected P285.59 billion in taxes. This represented a P28.62-billion shortfall from the P314.21-billion goal set for the period.

As a result, the budget deficit hit P41.76 billion in the first five months of the year. The deficit breached the P36.66-billion ceiling set for the period.

The shortfall in tax collection was the reason Teves recommended for replacement of former BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag. He said that while it was painful to make that recommendation (Buñag was his classmate in grade school and high school), something had to be done to stop the bleeding at the BIR).

Reduce budget deficit

Teves said his office was bent on attaining the full-year target of reducing the budget deficit to P63 billion from last year's P64.8 billion.

Buñag did not take his ouster calmly, saying Teves should also be held accountable for the shortfall in tax collection being the finance secretary. Buñag called for Teves' resignation.

Asked whether he believed there was connivance between Buñag and the two CA members (Suplico and Pichay) in pressuring him to resign, Teves said he did not want to make that kind of speculation.

WWF: Business leads going green campaign

From page A1

global warming to the survival of their companies—and comprehending the necessity of going green, Bourne said.

WWF has in fact enlisted the support of some of the world's biggest corporations in its Climate Savers Program, which seeks the reduction of greenhouse gases and ultimately, the prevention of catastrophic climate change.

Its partners include Sony, Nike, Johnson & Johnson, IBM, Tetra Pak, Polaroid, Catalyst Paper Corp., Lafarge, Novo Nordisk, Sagawa Express, The Collins Companies and Xanterra Parks and Resorts.

Biggest donation by UK firm

Taking it further, HSBC has linked up with WWF, the Climate Group, Earthwatch and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute for a $100-million program on climate change.

Mark Watkinson, president and CEO of HSBC Philippines, said the donation, the biggest ever made by a British company targeting global warming, would be invested in research, education, conservation and leadership programs.

Watkinson, who was present at Monday's forum, also said the company's lending policies strictly favored sound and sustainable environment practices.

Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, WWF Philippines president, said the reason multinationals were so concerned about global warming was simple.

"Climate change brings new risks which businesses have not had to face in the last century," he told the INQUIRER.

"If they address global warming this early, they can be assured of a stable business platform in the future," Tan said. "The bottom line is return on investment."

Consider the figures from a recent report on the economics of climate change that Bourne cited in his presentation:

"(Addressing climate change) might cost the world's economy 1 to 2 percent of global GDP (gross domestic product). But if we don't tackle climate change, within 50 years, we might see a 20-percent reduction in global GDP," Bourne said.

This, according to Bourne, is a "very, very good reason why businesses should be working toward the former pathway and trying to avoid the second pathway."

Stranded asset

"The key thing, for businesses to think about, if they want to move forward, is: Where are the risks, where are the opportunities, where are the changes, where are the discontinuities?" he said.

"Am I investing in something now that becomes a stranded asset in 10-15 years. You can't afford to do that if you're investing a billion," he said.

For this reason, in Australia, "no one, but no one," is investing in coal power plants, "primarily because they're probably going to become stranded assets in the future," Bourne said.

"The business leaders who take steps to address this will shape the politicians' thinking, and eventually the politicians can help shape what's going on," he added.

Five-year window

Although people were wary of politicians in his hometown, Bourne said: "In this particular time, we actually need leaders."

The reason: "We believe from the analysis we've done that we only have about five years as a world to make the decisions to really, truly tackle climate change," he said.

"Beyond five years, we begin to run out of time, and then we set the world on a temperature rise of about three degrees. (We try to keep it below about two degrees)," he said.

"And if you wait for another five years beyond that, you begin almost inevitably to set the world on a rise of four degrees with very little chance of turning it around," Bourne said.

Solutions

In addressing climate change, he cited six possible solutions, "some of which are quite obvious:"

- Breaking the link between energy sources and primary energy production.
- Stopping forest loss.
- Concurrent growth of low-emission technologies.
- Developing flexible forms of energy and energy storage.
- Replacing high carbon coal with low carbon gas.
- Carbon capture and storage.

The last proposed solution has great potential in mitigating the effects of climate change, according to Bourne.

Carbon capture and storage is accomplished by "taking coal, burning it, capturing the carbon dioxide, compressing them, and storing them on the ground."

Although there is already available technology for capturing carbon dioxide, the technology for CO_2 storage is still in the early stages and relatively untried.

"The key thing is this technology, if it works, becomes very important," Bourne said, adding that his organization is encouraging a number of countries to invest in the technology.

Cooperation crucial

"If they work, they're going to play a very important part in the future. About 50-80 percent of the future. If they don't work, we need to know, and we need to look at other sources," he said.

Bourne, however, said it was imperative that the world act as one in combating climate change. Toward this end, international cooperation is crucial, he said.

"It will be nice to think that America would come on board ... and start driving things. But what I think will happen is this: The European Union will drive forward on climate change," he said.

Bourne said he believed that China and India, two of Asia's rising economies, would eventually link together with Europe in coming up with solutions to the problem.

When such a collaboration happens, America will have to sit up and take notice, he said. "From the point of view of threats to a nation, America will have to come on board for fear of a trade bloc," he said.

Changing wealth of nations

"This has absolutely everything to do with Game Theory, geopolitics, and the changing wealth of nations," Bourne said.

"I would actually put my money on Europe, China and India beginning to work together to tackle climate change."

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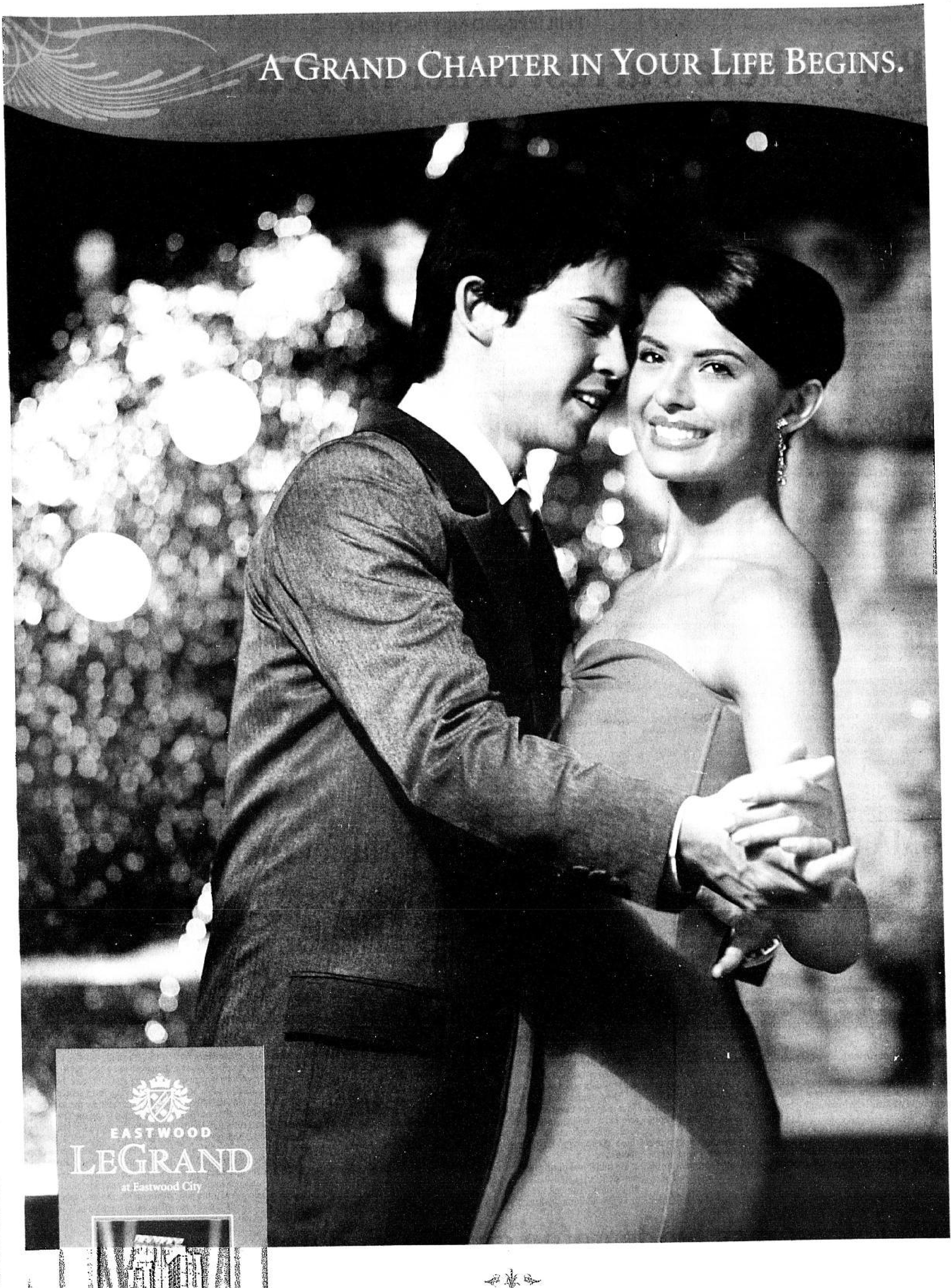

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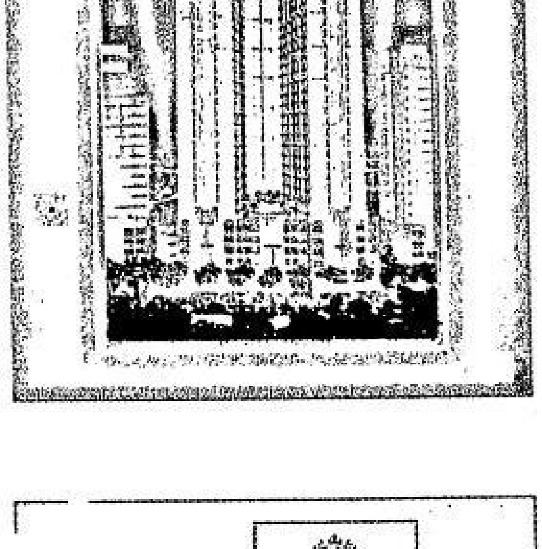

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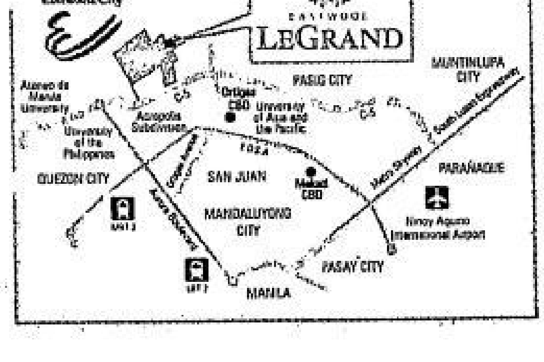
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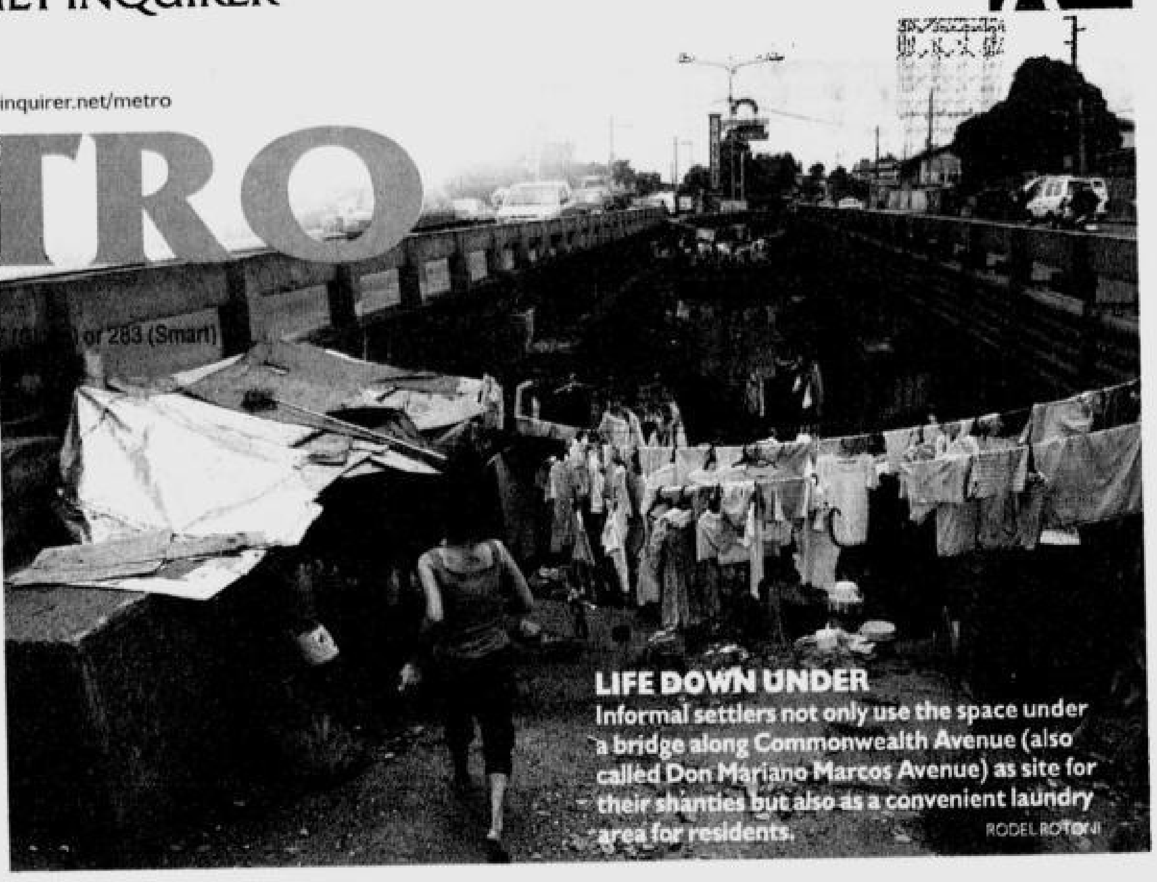

LIFE DOWN UNDER Informal settlers not only use the space under a bridge along Commonwealth Avenue (also called Don Mariano Marcos Avenue) as site for their shanties but also as a convenient laundry area for residents. RODEL ROTONI

'NO LEGAL INTEREST'

Sandigan throws out claim over Pasig lot

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS REjected the claim of the Greenhills Property Inc. (GPI) over an 18.4-hectare prime lot in Pasig City rendered to the government by an alleged crony of the late Ferdinand Marcos two decades ago.

The antigraft court's First Division ruled that the company had no legal interest in the property.

"Although the complaint-in-intervention that GPI filed prays for a declaration that it is a co-owner of the property ... what it actually seeks is a money claim," said the resolution signed by Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta.

The land, once the site of the "Payanig sa Pasig" theme park and now a commercial hub at the Meralco and Ortigas Avenues and Julia Vargas triangle, is being claimed from the government by two private entities. A case was filed with the antigraft court's First Division.

Joining Ortigas and Co. Limited Partnership (OCLP) and Ricardo Silverio of Anchor Estate Corp. in the land dispute was the late President's son, Ilocos Norte Congressman-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

Last week, Marcos filed a motion to intervene in the case asserting his family's right over the property. Following Marcos' action, OCLP issued a statement saying the congressman was "entitled to his own interpretation of the matter, although one must note his belated filing. These parcels were among those surrendered by the late Jose Y. Campos in 1986."

It pointed out that it filed its own case back in 1986, in which it detailed how the contested property—though not for sale—was acquired in 1968 from the company "through intimidation and undue influence of the late President Ferdinand Marcos."

Businessman Jose Yao Campos, the younger Marcos' godfather, handed over the property to the government in 1986 to escape prosecution.

OCLP said it was forced to yield to the lopsided terms of sale that favored Marcos. The lot went for "the grossly undervalued rate of P40 per square meter and via a payment scheme that ran contrary to OCLP policies".

It added that, in 1974, Marcos, on learning that OCLP was constructing Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, told Francisco Ortigas III, company president, that he wanted the adjacent 2.4-hectare strip.

"OCLP management had no choice but accede," the statement said.

Marcos, OCLP said, sent an undated supplementary agreement that was made to appear like it was entered into by Ortigas and the Mid-Pasig Land Development Corporation. The agreement, antedated to August 10, 1971, essentially handed the 2.4-hectare lot to Mid-Pasig Land Development Corporation without any payment.

In denying GPI's motion to intervene in the case, the court ruled that, as it was a money claim, the company's rights would be "best protected" in a separate proceeding.

The court said allowing the company to intervene in the case would only result in delay or prejudice the rights of the original parties.

GPI said it became the owner of 18.19 percent share of the entire capital of the OCLP when partners, who left the company, incorporated GPI.

As part of the partial liquidation of the limited partners' shares, OCLP assigned several parcels of land to GPI, it claimed.

Manila teachers replace trees cut for their building in Arroceros park

By Allison W. Lopez

SOME TREES MAY HAVE BEEN felled to make space for their building inside the Arroceros Forest Park, but Manila's teachers are making up for the loss.

Led by the Department of Education in Manila, around 103 school administrators and principals from elementary and secondary levels began planting trees at the park the other day.

A total of 500 fruit-bearing and ornamental trees will be planted in a portion of the 21,428-square meter park near the Pasig River as part of the nationwide tree-planting tomorrow.

The simultaneous tree-planting activity, "Puno Para sa Kinabuksan," aims to set a new Guinness world record by planting 1.5 million trees from Aparri to Jolo in one day. In Manila, public school teachers and pupils will plant five trees in their respective schools.

"We welcome any planting of trees especially because there's global warming," said Regina Paterno, president of Winner Foundation.

Mayor-elect Alfredo Lim promised recently to give back the forest park to the environmental group, its former caretaker.

Paterno said a thanksgiving Mass will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday to celebrate the park's return. Lim is expected to attend the Mass to be celebrated by Fr. John Leydon, parish priest of Malate.

As to the future of the park and the City Schools Division building, Paterno said they did not want to preempt the mayor.

"We will give the mayor time to sort this out. It's enough that he said he would give back the park to the Winner Foundation," she said.

Paterno said they wanted to turn the park into a rainforest.

Police foil attempt to ransack bank vault

By Kristine L. Alave

TEN UNIDENTIFIED ARMED men held up a PSBank branch in Cainta, Rizal just before noon yesterday.

Responding policemen engaged the suspects in a shootout, the police reported yesterday.

No injuries were reported and the suspects fled with only a "negligible" amount of money.

Rizal provincial police chief Supt. Freddie Panen said eight men carrying short firearms and five of them wearing ski masks, entered the bank at about 11:23 a.m.

Two suspects, armed with long firearms waited outside.

Panen said the bank's watchmen were overpowered. A guard, Panen said, went to the main vault, a violation of the standard operating procedure, followed by one of the suspects.

Although he refused to draw conclusions Panen said they would "invite" the guard for questioning.

Panen said the suspects managed to get only a small amount of money from the tellers as the branch had just opened.

The thieves failed to ransack the vault as a policeman on a motorcycle and a traffic enforcer arrived on the scene.

The suspects outside fired at the officer triggering a shootout and forcing the robbers to flee.

Panen said the suspects drove towards Barangay Karangalan.

Investigators recovered three bullets from the motorcycle and another in an armored van of Banco de Oro parked nearby.

Panen said the suspects blocked the façade of the building with their vehicles.

Witnesses said the suspects used a Toyota Vios, a blue Mitsubishi L300 van, another vehicle of unidentified make, and two motorcycles during the heist.

DID YOU KNOW

OUT OF 16.3 MILLION travelers in the Philippines in 2006, almost 360,000 visited Metro Manila. Of the Metro Manila visitors, over 260,000 were foreigners, nearly 30,000 were Filipinos from abroad and close to 70,000 were domestic travelers. The Southern Tagalog Region had the most number of visitors last year (6.3 million), while Eastern Visayas had the least (around 200,000).

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Krispy Kreme opens first drive-thru in Asia in Greenhills

Krispy Kreme, America's most loved doughnut, opens its third store on Thursday, June 28 at the Greenhills Shopping Center, its first free-standing store in the Philippines and first drive-thru outlet in Asia.

With branches all over the US, Canada, Mexico, UK, Australia, Japan, Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Korea, Krispy Kreme is known for its fresh, hot doughnuts, and fun opening day festivities.

Much excitement surrounds the opening of every Krispy Kreme store, as long queues of excited customers traditionally wait in line for a first taste of a Krispy Kreme made right where they can see it.

True to Krispy Kreme opening day tradition, June 28 is shaping up to be an exciting event for local customers. Krispy Kreme not only offers its world famous Original Glazed doughnuts and a variety of filled, cake, and sprinkled doughnuts, but also a wide selection of coffee beverages made from high quality coffee beans, roasted by our own Krispy Kreme Roastmaster at our state-of-the-art roasting facility.

Aside from this one of a kind taste experience, limited edition Krispy Kreme thermal mug await the first 300 customers. Once again, the Golden Ticket is up for grabs The first customer to ring the cash register for dine-in and drive-thru at 9 am will each win a free one year supply of Original Glazed doughnuts, one dozen per week. The second drive-thru customer at the drive-thru will win six months supply of Original Glazed doughnut, while the third customer will win three months supply of Original Glazed doughnut, also one dozen per week.

To make the Filipinos' first doughnut drive-thru experience even more exciting, surprise celebrity guests will man the drive-thru on opening day. There will also be a Krispy Kreme opening day Car Stick-on, where customers who drive-thru with the special sticker on their windshield are entitled to a free Signature Coffee on a dozen doughnut purchase.

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Market for Muslim goods opens in August in Taguig

METROBRIEFS

No place to hide

MANILA policemen arrested in Parañaque City a Chinese businessman accused of killing his wife and a casino financier a few years ago. Chief Insp. Alex Yanquiling, chief of the Manila Police District homicide division, identified the suspect as Wang Yu alias Emilio Ong and Emil Abalos, 41. The suspect was arrested around 5 a.m. in front of Casino Filipino on Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City. Yanquiling said the suspect was about to meet an employee allegedly of the Department of Foreign Affairs, who would reportedly facilitate the issuance of a new passport using another name that would allow him to leave the country and elude pending warrants of arrest for murder, frustrated murder and parricide charges. The suspect is now detained at the MPD headquarters.

Tina G. Santos

Water supply assured

SOME areas of Caloocan and Quezon City are presently experiencing low pressure to no water due to the ongoing emergency repair of a diesel engine will get their water supply back in one to two weeks. Maynilad Water Network AVP Rodrigo Yabut said areas in Caloocan that have no water are Capt. Rico, Pagasa Homesite, Urduja Village, Magnolia, Yellowbell, King Solomon, Reparo, Caimito, Maligaya, Adeline and Capitol. Maria, Natividad 1, 2, 3 and 4, Bankers 1, Celina 2 and Congress Village. Affected customers may call Maynilad Water Hotline 1626 or 436-20-00, or text Maynilad at 2898 for the water-rationing schedule.

Makati fiesta

IN CELEBRATION of the feasts of Saints Peter & Paul and the Nuestra Señora de la Rosa of Poblacion, Makati, the Tourism Organization of Poblacion, Makati Inc. (TOP Makati), in cooperation with the Poblacion Barangay Council headed by Brgy. Capt. Joey Villena IV and the Saints Peter & Paul Parish through Rev. Fr. Estelito E. Villegas presents Pistang Sampiro 2007. Tomorrow, an on-the-spot painting of the Saints Peter & Paul Parish Church will be held featuring 12 contemporary painters. This will be held at 9 a.m. at the Plaza Cristo Rey along P. Burgos Street. On June 30, the Viva! Maria de la Rosa Festival will be marked with a parade at 1 p.m.

By Julie M. Aurelio

A WORLD-CLASS, STYLIZED market for Muslim goods is expected to open in August in Maharlika Village, Taguig City.

The Presidential Management Office has transferred to the Taguig city government the newly-constructed Muslim Trade Center.

Mayor Freddie Tinga signed Tuesday the transfer documents in simple rites at City Hall attended by Consuelo M. Suello, deputy secretary general of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

The trade center will feature authentic Muslim products from Mindanao and other Arab or Muslim countries, such as textiles, crafts, spices, novelty items etc.

Tinga said *halal* food (food allowed under Islamic law) would be served in restaurants and kiosks.

"The MTC, with its unique concept, is envisioned to become the central depot of products and cuisine from Mindanao, Asia and the Middle East," Tinga said.

"We will now have a model Muslim community as we revitalize the redevelopment of Barangay Maharlika into a tourism and trade center," he added.

The reelected city mayor expressed optimism that the MTC would spur socio-economic transformation and bring back Maharlika Village's old glory.

Taguig Area 3 satellite office manager April Al-Raschid said tenants would go through a very strict screening process under the MTC Strategic Management Group.

The Kingdom of Bahrain provided a P30 million grant for the development of the MTC, which was built through the combined efforts of the Taguig city government, the Office of the President and Office of the Special Envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Interested applicants may visit www.taguig.gov.ph or call the Area 3 satellite office at 8384301 local 3333.

Animal welfare group supports zoo closure

By Allison W. Lopez

AN ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP has come out in full support of the closure of the Manila Zoo and the building of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) Dome on the same spot.

Describing the zoo as a "decrepit prison," Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) Asia-Pacific director Jason Baker said they were "wholeheartedly supporting the plan" to replace it with the PBA structure because it was the "perfect opportunity" to free the creatures. "The animals don't deserve this and Manila residents don't need this. It's a unique opportunity to change with the times, do what's right for the animals and benefit the city," Baker said in a statement.

Manila 5th district Rep. Amado Bagatsing said the zoo's relocation to a bigger area would be good for the "sad," animals in the four-hectare lot in Malate.

Baker, however, claimed the zoo's infrastructure had deteriorated and the condition of the animals had grown worse.

Man's body recovered by cops in Quiapo 'estero'

By Tina G. Santos

MANILA POLICEMEN RECOVERED the body of a still unidentified man in a murky *estero* (waterway) in Quiapo yesterday morning.

The discovery came almost a week after authorities found the bodies of two women stuffed inside separate drums filled with cement near the same area on Arlegui Street, Quiapo, Manila.

Police said the man's body was already in a state of decomposition and appeared to have a cut in the neck and a bullet wound on the side of the body.

SPO2 Louie Sardena, desk officer of Police Community Precinct in Barbosa (Quiapo), said the body was retrieved around 9:45 a.m.

Last Thursday, policemen recovered the bodies of Sarah Ampazo and a certain Noralyn, reportedly vendors in the Quiapo area.

Police said they found the bodies under a shanty in the area known as "Vietnam Village" in Quiapo around 10 p.m. following a tip from a concerned resident.

The victims bore several stab wounds in different parts of the body, police said, adding that the women were only clad in underwear.

Police have arrested three of the four suspects believed to be behind the killing of the two women. Saidamir Omar, Cesar Loma and Gary Pangilinan were arrested inside the house of Faisal Alonto, the alleged mastermind. Alonto remains at large.

Recovered from the suspects were plastic nylon rope, cement bags, shovel, drum cover and a big kitchen knife.

The other day, police raided the area following a tip that more than a dozen bodies had been dumped in the *estero*. Instead of dead bodies, police found drug paraphernalia, prompting them to round up several residents in the area.

Charged for baptizing children as Catholic

ON TARGET

Ramon Tu

FOR HAVING HER CHILDREN baptized as Catholics and using Christian names, former Binibining Pilipinas Sabrina Artadi has been charged in four criminal cases with a total bail of P72,000.

The cases were filed in the Shari'a court by Artadi's estranged husband, Saudi Arabian Fouzi Bondagjy.

Muntinlupa City Prosecutor Edward Togonon dismissed the cases against Artadi, but Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez reversed the prosecutor's decision.

Gonzalez's Muslim advisers at the Department of Justice might have had a hand in the filing of the cases against Artadi.

The same staff members were allegedly responsible for the dismissal by Gonzalez of the drug trafficking cases against a Maranaw Muslim who reportedly owned the shabu *tiangge* (flea market) in Pasig City.

* * *

The 12 million voters who elected Antonio Trillanes IV have been had: They thought they sent a knight in shining armor to the Senate.

Trillanes' true character is showing in some documents I have been furnished.

One document shows that Trillanes, who claims to be a poor and honest military officer, lives in the posh Town and Country Club Executive Village in Antipolo City. His address is L-28, Blk 9, Duhat Street. In his certificate of candidacy, Trillanes gave his home address as BF Homes, Caloocan City. That's his mother's house.

Another document reveals Trillanes has property in Trece Martires City.

When he was still a Navy lieutenant (Army equivalent of captain), Trillanes allegedly already owned the following vehicles: Mitsubishi Pajero with plate number RIZ 222; Nissan Terrano, plate number UJW 717; five Mitsubishi Delicas with plates XBD 552, XCZ 552, XBF 574, XBY 183, and WLU 445; a Kawasaki motorcycle, plate number PH 6449.

Now, how could a Navy lieutenant senior grade with a salary of less than P20,000 a month have all those expensive pieces of property?

* * *

Trillanes says one of his first order of business as senator is to initiate an investigation of the extra-judicial killings involving the military.

C'mon, boy, why don't you look at yourself in the mirror?

Months before the so-called Oakwood Mutiny, where he was one of the leaders, Trillanes allegedly evicted a couple, Dutch Adriaan de Jager and Anastacia Santarin, from their property in Novaliches, Quezon City, reportedly with no court order.

The De Jagers said Trillanes brought with him armed goons when he forced them out of their home on a 430-square meter lot.

Using his influence, Trillanes allegedly filed trumped-up charges against Adriaan that made him stay in jail for 15 months.

* * *

Jesus Matubis, spokesperson of Maynilad Water Services, denies bullying a woman and calling this writer names in a closed-door meeting held to thresh out the problem of Metro Manila's water supply.

Although the woman who was bullied into crying, Pinky Tobiano, refused to talk about the incident, I have two witnesses who say Matubis did what was reported in this space June 23.

Why doesn't Matubis just answer the accusation that the water from the faucets in Metro Manila is dirty, instead of discrediting the messenger of the bad news?

Junk prosecutor's motion to recall bail, Leviste asks court

By DJ Yap

FORMER BATANGAS GOV. JOSE ANTONIO Leviste, who has been accused of killing his aide Rafael de las Alas on Jan. 12, has asked a Makati court to reject the motion of the prosecution seeking the recall of his bail.

Out on bail since late May, Leviste opposed the motion for reconsideration filed by Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco appealing the court ruling that granted the former governor's provisional release.

Leviste argued that the prosecution did not present strong evidence that the De Las Alas' killing had been attended with treachery, premeditation and extreme cruelty, which are the conditions that establish there was a murder. Leviste told Judge Elmo Alameda of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 that the prosecution motion should be denied for "utter lack of merit."

On May 29, Velasco sought the reversal of Alameda's order allowing Leviste to post a bail of P300,000, and asked that the former governor be brought back to jail.

In his motion, Velasco argued that the evidence presented by the prosecution "all point too well that the victim was brutally murdered, and hence, this case should not be considered as a simple homicide."

Alameda had allowed Leviste to post bail after he found that the prosecution failed to prove strong evidence of Leviste's guilt.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Europe hit by killer heat wave, floods

BUCHAREST—A SEARING HEAT wave has killed at least 46 people across southern Europe while in Britain torrential rain claimed three lives and forced hundreds to flee a creaking dam.

Twenty-nine heat-related deaths were recorded in Romania where temperatures Tuesday hit 45 degrees Celsius. Four people have died in Greece, six in Italy, three in Albania and at least four in Bosnia, Croatia and Turkey.

Three elderly people died Tuesday in the Italian island of Sicily, taking the nationwide toll in the current heat wave to six.

Two men, both aged over 80, died in the southern town of Calabria while a 59-year-old woman was found dead in her home in the northwestern town of Palermo in Sicily.

Italian firefighters have dropped tanks of water from aircraft to control more than 30 forest fires after temperatures in the south topped 45 degrees Celsius.

Bucharest was Europe's hottest capital on Tuesday with temperatures at 45 degrees Celsius but a heat alert was sounded for much of the south of the country.

Ambulance services were besieged with calls to help people fainting in the street, officials said. Fourteen people have died from the heat in the city over the past week, according to authorities who have set up more than 30 first aid tents in Bucharest alone to cope with the casualties.

Police have been handing out water in the street and the health ministry has warned the elderly and those with debilitating illnesses not to go out during the day.

Temperatures hit 44 degrees Celsius in Athens and central Greece Tuesday, the hottest this year, and the government urged the public to save power as electricity consumption hit new highs.

The Greek military has suspended all exercises and public services were closed in the afternoon.

Temperatures in Bulgaria beat the record for a second time this week with the mercury shooting up to 43 degrees Celsius Tuesday in the southeastern town of Radnevo.

Authorities sprayed water on the tram rails to prevent them from buckling in the heat but no casualties have been reported. Trains ran at slower speeds, in some cases at 30 km per hour as rails were deforming under the heat.

Police also banned heavy

POPE Benedict XVI AFP

Papal poll guidelines amended

VATICAN CITY—POPE BENEDICT XVI has changed the rules for electing popes, making it potentially harder to name a successor but ensuring that when the white smoke rises from the Sistine Chapel the new pope has broad support among cardinals.

Benedict issued a one-page document in Latin on Tuesday requiring that two-thirds of the cardinals in a conclave agree on the new pontiff.

The move was a return to Vatican tradition and reversed Pope John Paul II's 1996 decision to let an absolute majority of cardinals decide on the next pope if they remained deadlocked after 33 rounds of balloting.

Some analysts had argued that with John Paul's rules, the majority bloc in a conclave could push through a candidate by simply holding tight until the balloting shifted from the two-thirds requirement to an absolute majority.

In the document, Benedict said John Paul had received a number of requests to return to the former system after he issued his 1996 document, Universi Dominici Gregis.

"It would seem that Pope Benedict wants to ensure that whoever is elected pope enjoys the greatest possible consensus," said the Vatican spokesperson, the Rev. Federico Lombardi.

The document—essentially an executive order called a "motu proprio"—came as something of a surprise, since the main public criticism of the Vatican's voting process to date has concerned the exclusion of cardinals over age 80 from the balloting.

There was no explanation about why the Pope, who himself turned 80 in April, made the change now. *AP*

CIA hired mafia to kill Castro

WASHINGTON—THE CIA OFfered $150,000 to mafia figures to kill Cuban leader Fidel Castro, just one of several CIA plots against foreign leaders detailed in 693 pages of classified US documents released Tuesday.

Other CIA targets, long alleged but only now revealed in the intelligence agency's own documents, included Congo independence leader Patrice Lumumba as well as Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo.

The documents also detail apparently illegal government spying on US citizens opposed to the Vietnam War and on prominent journalists in the 1970s, as well as experiments using drugs on unsuspecting subjects.

Among the released CIA files is a lengthy memo which exposes the agency's recruitment of top mafia figures already wanted for crimes in order to assassinate Cuba's communist leader.

"The mission target was Fidel Castro," said the 1973 document.

According to the memo, the man chosen for the "sensitive mission requiring gangster-type action" was one Johnny Roselli—in reality Santos Trafficant, head of mafia Cuba operations.

He recruited a second man for the mission called Sam Gold, whom the CIA discovered was actually Salvatore "Momo" Giancana, head of the Chicago mob and "successor to Al Capone." Both were on the US attorney general's 10 most-wanted fugitives list, according to the memo.

"It was to be made clear to Roselli that the United States Government was not, and should not, become aware of this operation," it said.

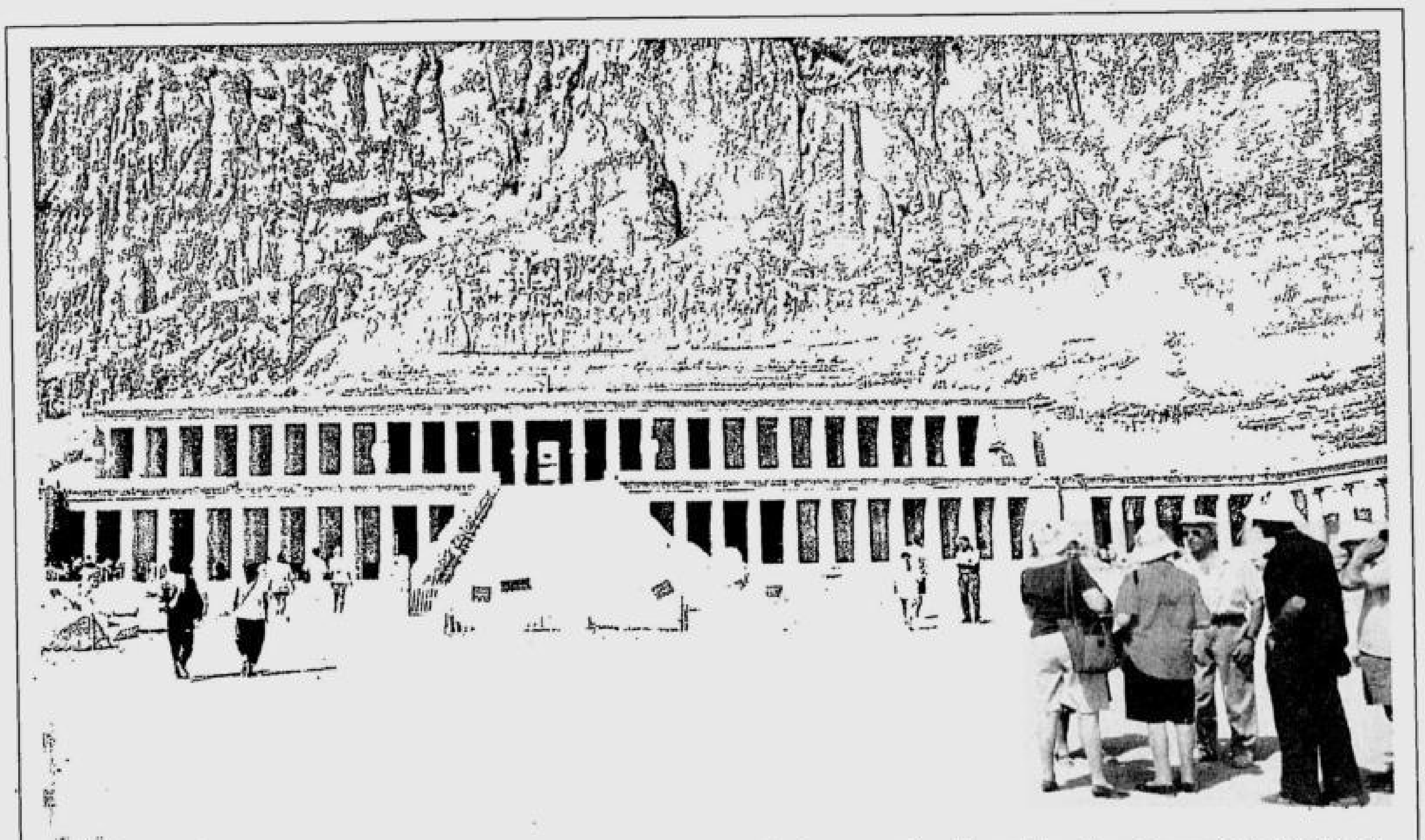
The mafiosi recommended against the use of firearms to kill Castro, it said, and suggested instead "some type of potent pill that could be placed in Castro's food or drink."

"Sam indicated that he had a prospective nominee in the person of Juan Orta, a Cuban official who had been receiving kickback payments from the gambling interests, who still had access to Castro, and was in a financial bind," the memo said.

Roselli gave Orta the pills, but "After several weeks of reported attempts, Orta apparently got cold feet and asked out of the assignment."

"Roselli made it clear he did not want any more for his part and believed Sam would feel the same way.

"Neither of these individuals were ever paid out of Agency funds," the document said. *AFP*



THIS APRIL 1995 photo shows the Hatshepsut Temple in the desert outside Luxor, southern Egypt. Egypt is set to unveil what many call the top archaeological discovery since the 1922 find of King Tut—that a mummy housed in the Cairo museum is that of Queen Hatshepsut, a woman ruler who called herself a Pharaoh. AP

Mummy believed to be that of Queen Hatshepsut found

A TOOTH AND SOME DNA clues appear to have solved the mystery of the lost mummy of Hatshepsut, one of the great queens of ancient Egypt, who reigned in the 15th century B.C.

Archaeologists who conducted the research, to be announced formally Wednesday in Cairo, said this was the first mummy of an Egyptian ruler to be found and "positively identified" since King Tutankhamen's tomb was opened in 1922.

Dr. Zahi Hawass, secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Cairo, said Monday in a telephone interview that the mummy was found in 1903 an obscure, undecorated tomb in the Valley of the Kings, across the Nile from modern Luxor, and had been largely overlooked for more than a century.

Hawass said the identification of the well-preserved mummy as Hatshepsut (pronounced hat-shep-SOOT) was made a few weeks ago when a CT scan of a wooden box associated with the queen revealed the presence of a tooth. The tooth, he said, "fits exactly" into the jaw socket and broken root of the mummy of an obese woman originally found in Tomb 60 at the Valley of the Kings, the necropolis for royalty in the New Kingdom before and after Hatshepsut's reign.

"We therefore have scientific proof that this is the mummy of Queen Hatshepsut," Hawass concluded, citing primarily the tooth but also current DNA analysis suggesting a family relationship between the obese woman and Ahmose Nefertari, the matriarch of 18th-dynasty royalty.

Other Egyptologists not involved in the project said that the finding was fascinating, but that they would reserve judgment until they had studied the results of the DNA analysis and had some of the evidence confirmed by other researchers.

Further CT scans led physicians to conclude that the woman was about 50 when she died, and in poor health. She was overweight and had bad teeth. She probably had diabetes and died of bone cancer, which had spread through her body.

The search for Hatshepsut's mummy by Egyptian archaeologists and medical scientists will be described in a television program, "Secrets of Egypt's Lost Queen," scheduled for July 15 on the Discovery Channel.

New York Times News Service

Professional wrestler kills wife, son before hanging self

BENOIT AP

MIAMI—PROFESSIONAL WRESTling superstar Chris Benoit killed his wife and 7-year-old son before hanging himself from his weight machine, authorities said on Tuesday.

Investigators said the murder-suicide happened over Friday and Saturday in the suburban Atlanta home where the bodies of Benoit, his wife and young son were found on Monday.

Nicknamed "The Rabid Wolverine" and "The Canadian Crippler," Benoit had canceled two events in Texas over the weekend citing an undisclosed "family emergency," his employer, World Wrestling Entertainment, said on its website.

Benoit then sent "several curious text messages" to friends early Sunday morning and this prompted authorities to check on him and his family at their home, the statement said.

Autopsy results showed that Benoit first murdered his wife, Nancy. She was bound at the feet and wrists and died of asphyxiation sometime on Friday, Fayette County District Attorney Scott Ballard told a news conference.

She was wrapped in a towel and some blood was found under her head but Ballard said there were no other signs of a struggle.

The couple's son, who also died of asphyxia, was apparently killed as he lay in bed on Saturday morning, hours before Benoit hung himself, Ballard said.

"It was the cord from the weights," he said, describing how Benoit managed to strangle himself.

Benoit left no suicide note but placed Bibles alongside the bodies of his wife and son, Ballard added.

"In a community like this it's bizarre just to have a murder-suicide and certainly involving the death of a 7-year-old child," said Ballard. "I don't think we'll ever be able to wrap our minds around that completely."

Lt. Tommy Pope of the Fayette County Sheriff's Department said it could be several weeks before toxicology reports were available. But he said anabolic steroids were among the prescription drugs found in Benoit's house.

In some cases, use of muscle-building steroids has been linked by US health officials to uncontrolled outbursts of anger or combativeness.

The Atlanta Journal Constitution said the Benoits had lived together since 1997 and were married in 2000 but separated about the same time Nancy Benoit filed for divorce in May 2003.

In an accompanying petition, the newspaper said Nancy Benoit had sought protection from domestic abuse, claiming she was intimidated by threats of violence from her husband.

She later filed to have the divorce and protective petitions dismissed.

Benoit began his career in his native Canada more than 20 years ago and wrestled in Japan before moving back to North America. *Reuters*

Wreckage of lost Cambodian tourist plane found; 22 dead

KAMPOT, CAMBODIA—SEARCH teams Wednesday located the wreckage of a chartered tourist plane which went missing in southern Cambodia, officials said, adding that all 22 aboard were likely dead.

The discovery came as dozens of South Koreans arrived in Cambodia to mourn relatives on the doomed flight.

"We found the crashed plane ... on top of Bokor Mountain, but we cannot get there now," said Khov Khun Huor, deputy governor of Kampot province.

He said the plane, which disappeared two days ago en route from the Angkor temple town of Siem Reap to the seaside resort of Sihanoukville, was lying "in pieces."

All 22 people on the aircraft—13 South Koreans, three Czechs, a Russian pilot and five local crew—were feared dead.

"Maybe it was hard to survive," Khov Khun Huor said.

"Now we need to retrieve any survivors or corpses, if there are any."

A Cambodian helicopter pilot who was able to briefly land near the airplane told AFP all the passengers were dead.

The wreckage was discovered by a helicopter around 50 km from its destination and is thought to have crashed into the mountain in bad weather.

Heavy fog since Monday has made air searches nearly impossible, while rains turned jungle trails into muddy rivulets, hampering the more than 1,000 police, soldiers and conservation workers who were scouring the remote area.

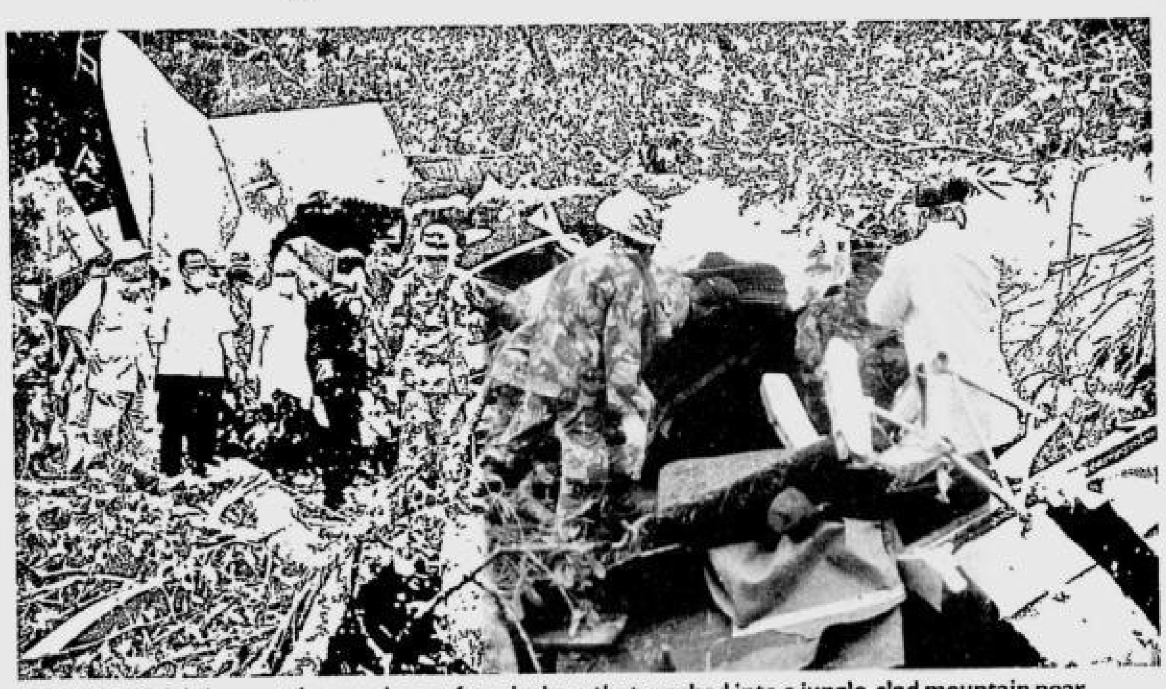
Khov Khun Huor said the plane had crashed in dense forest, and that a hole would have to be hacked out of the canopy of trees before rescuers could get equipment to the wreckage.

"We need to cut the trees before we can go in there to see," he said, adding that officials have urged nearby villagers to try and make their way to the crash site.

South Korean diplomats said Tuesday they had identified all 13 Koreans on board, including two boys aged 2 and 7 years. All had been part of a tour group, they said.

South Koreans made up the largest percentage of 1.7 million foreign visitors to Cambodia in 2006.

Dozens of Korean family members have been arriving in Cambodia since Tuesday night and were expected to hurry to this coastal town. Television reports showed groups of stricken relatives leaving the capital's airport on buses, surrounded by Korean press. *AFP*



RESCUE officials inspect the wreckage of an airplane that crashed into a jungle-clad mountain near Phnom Penh June 27. There were no survivors. REUTERS

China shuts down 180 food makers using formaldehyde

AN OFFICIAL from the Beijing Administration for Industry and Commerce (BAIC) office shows to journalists some of the fake or non-standard products on display at a BAIC food safety monitoring center in Beijing. AP

BEIJING—CHINA HAS CLOSED 180 FOOD FACTORIES AFTER INspectors found industrial chemicals being used in products from candy to seafood, state media said Wednesday.

The closures came amid a nationwide crackdown on shoddy and dangerous products launched in December that also uncovered use of recycled or expired food, the China Daily said.

Formaldehyde, illegal dyes and industrial wax were found being used to make candy, pickles, crackers and seafood, it said, citing Han Yi, an official with the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, which is responsible for food safety.

"These are not isolated cases," Han, director of the administration's quality control and inspection department, was quoted as saying.

Han's admission was significant because the administration has said in the past that safety violations were the work of a few rogue operators, a claim which is likely part of a strategy to protect China's billions of dollars of food exports.

International concerns over China's food safety problems ballooned this year after high levels of toxins and industrial chemicals were found in exported products.

Chinese-made toothpaste has been rejected by several countries in North and South America and Asia, while Chinese wheat gluten tainted with the chemical melamine was blamed for dog and cat deaths in North America. Other products turned away by US inspectors include toxic monkfish, frozen eel and juice made with unsafe color additives.

Authorities in China have pushed for more stringent controls and increased publicity of their efforts to control the problem. *AP*

BLAIR REUTERS

BROWN AP

Blair out, Brown in as Britain's PM

LONDON—GORDON BROWN SUCCEEDS Tony Blair on Wednesday, becoming Britain's 52nd prime minister at the head of a Labour government suffering in polls because of Iraq and in need of new life if it is to secure a fourth consecutive term.

After waiting 10 years for Blair to step aside, Brown must also contend with a resurgent Conservative opposition as he strives to emerge from the shadows of Blair's leadership and put his own stamp of authority on the top job.

Underlining the scale of the task was the headline-making coverage for Blair, who stole the spotlight with reports he was about to be named as a Middle East envoy for the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations.

Brown, who served as finance minister throughout Blair's premiership, has vowed to revitalize the ruling Labour Party and learn from what he called the divisive Iraq war, although he still backs the decision to join the 2003 US-led invasion.

Other early challenges for the new leader include staving off demands for a referendum on a new European Union treaty, agreed in outline by Blair and other EU leaders last week.

The delicate issue of a US corruption probe into British defense firm BAE Systems' dealings with Saudi Arabia may also prove to be a diplomatic headache.

But it is Britain's close relationship with the United States—Blair was President George W. Bush's closest ally over Iraq—that will dominate Brown's early agenda.

"Iraq is still sitting at the top of Brown's intray and it's very hard to see how that can be turned around," said David Mepham, head of the international unit at the Institute for Public Policy Research.

"He needs to be more assertive with America and say they have to talk more seriously with Iran and Syria about it."

Bush gave an interview to Britain's biggest-selling daily tabloid, The Sun, in which he paid tribute to Blair, describing him as a great ally and "a very talented man."

"Tony has always been very gracious about Gordon Brown to me," he said.

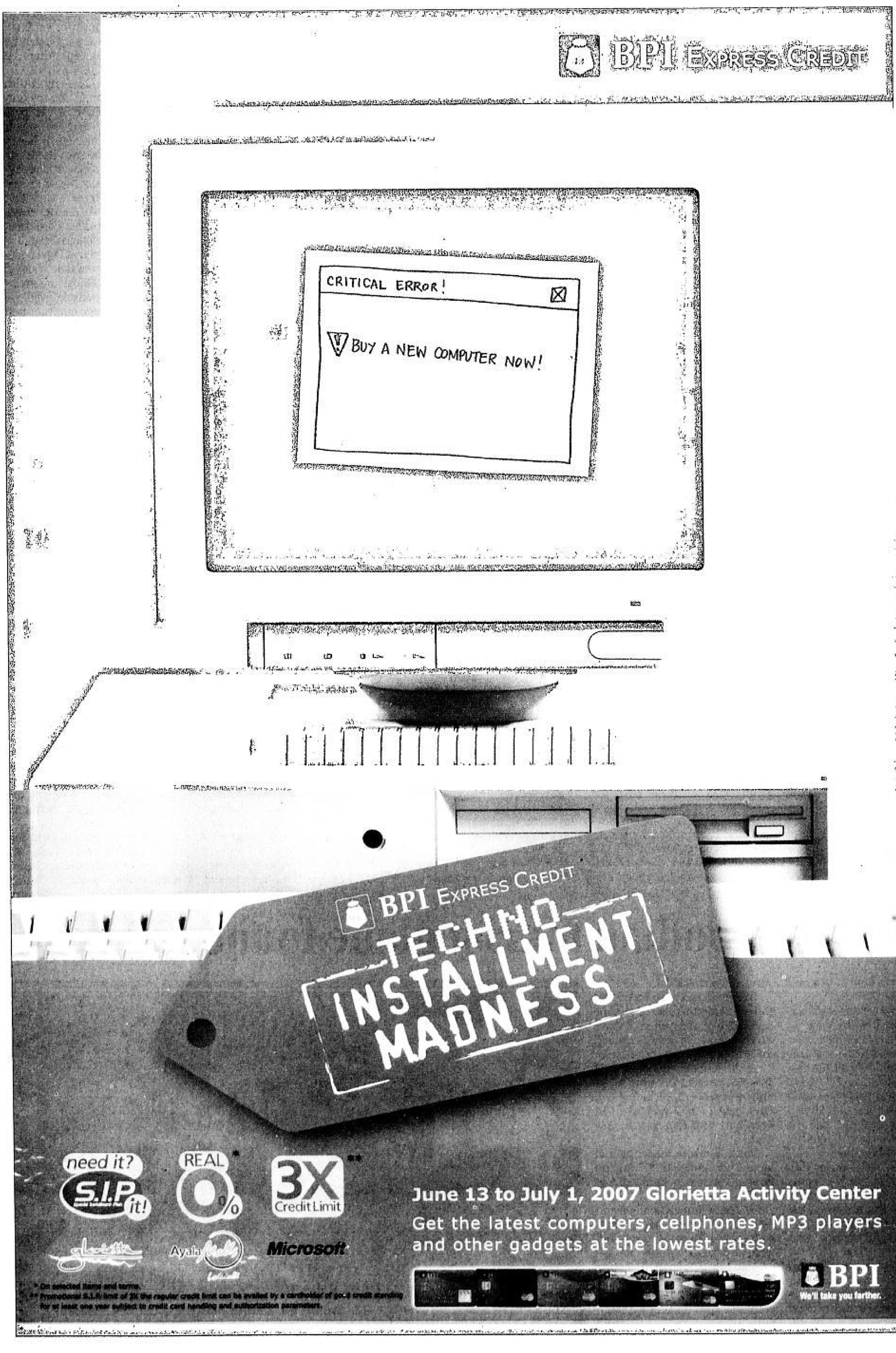
Blair, 54, Britain's second longest-serving prime minister in a century, will go to parliament for a final weekly question-and-answer session with legislators on Wednesday before he retires.

He will then go to Buckingham Palace to hand in his resignation to Queen Elizabeth, who will later ask Brown, 56, to form a new government.

Brown has pledged a new style of inclusive leadership, although his initial attempts to woo members of parliament from other parties for his new government failed.

He is expected to press for cross-party support on issues including the environment and reform of parliamentary processes that allow the government to declare war.

Apart from the damage done by his staunch support for the Iraq war, Blair's popularity has been dented by public perceptions that he placed too much store in slick media presentations and misled voters. *Reuters*



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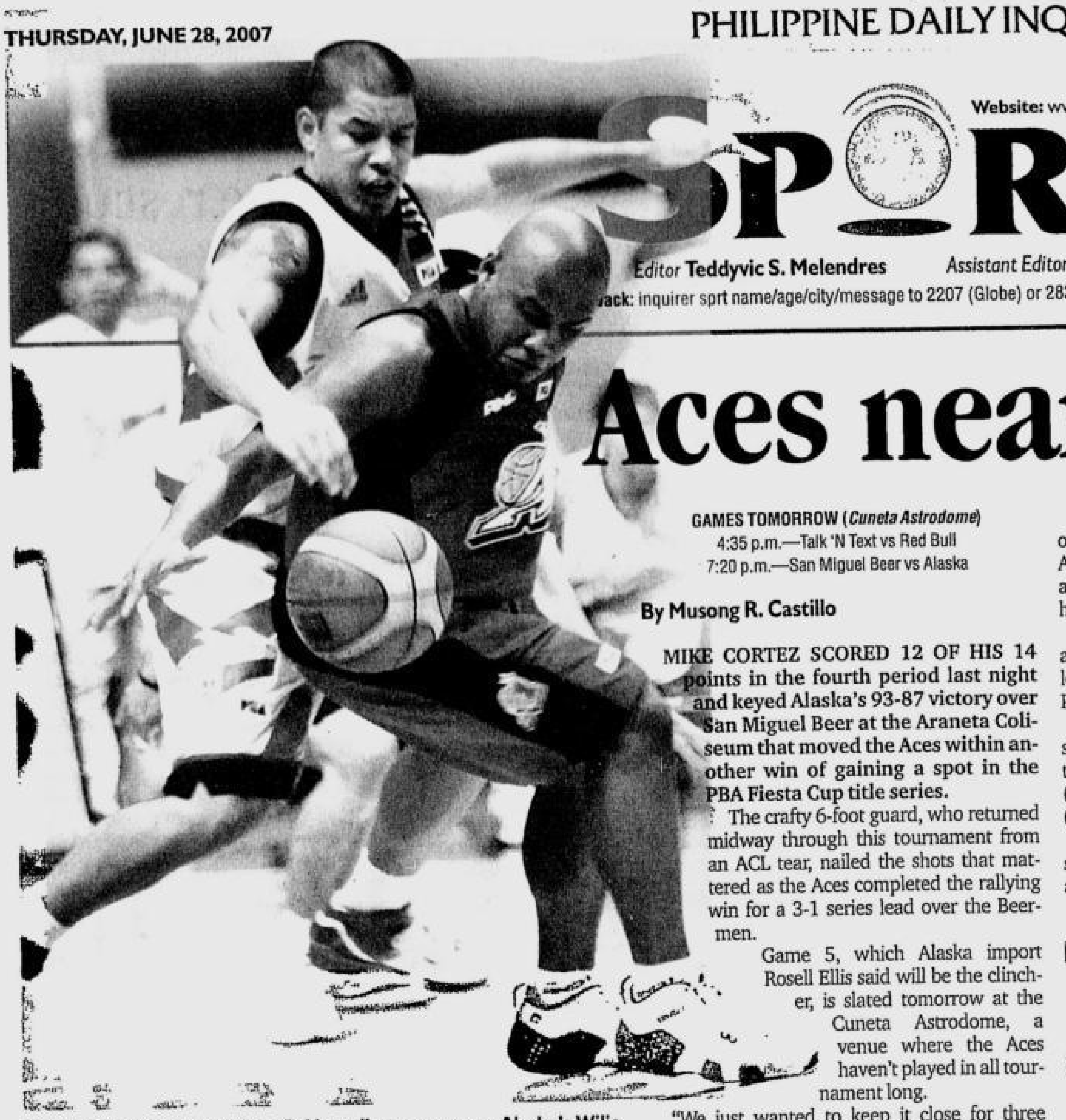

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Venus rises, avoids tennis 'Graveyard' /A26

Aces near 'Fiesta' finals

SAN MIGUEL'S Willie Wilson (left) applies pressure on Alaska's Wilie Miller in last night's game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES TOMORROW (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:35 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Red Bull
7:20 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Alaska

By Musong R. Castillo

MIKE CORTEZ SCORED 12 OF HIS 14 points in the fourth period last night and keyed Alaska's 93-87 victory over San Miguel Beer at the Araneta Coliseum that moved the Aces within another win of gaining a spot in the PBA Fiesta Cup title series.

The crafty 6-foot guard, who returned midway through this tournament from an ACL tear, nailed the shots that mattered as the Aces completed the rallying win for a 3-1 series lead over the Beermen.

Game 5, which Alaska import Rosell Ellis said will be the clincher, is slated tomorrow at the Cuneta Astrodome, a venue where the Aces haven't played in all tournament long.

"We just wanted to keep it close for three quarters and make our move from there," Cortez told reporters. "We have to put them away in the next game because you can't give a team like San Miguel life."

The Aces rode Cortez in a telling 13-2 run that happened in a four-minute span in the fourth period as Alaska erased a 60-68 deficit at the start of the quarter to take an 85-80 lead.

Cortez was the man in the center of it all, as he scored 10 of his fourth quarter points in that stretch while coming up with some of the intangibles that frustrated San Miguel.

He capped his brilliance with two free throws off Danny Ildefonso in the final 14.2 seconds as Alaska said goodnight, 91-85, for the win which also gave coach Tim Cone the chance to redeem himself.

The outspoken coach was the last to ever blow a 3-1 lead in a best-of-seven series, when his Aces lost the final three games to Purefoods in the last Philippine Cup.

"Last time we had a 3-1 lead, we lost," Cone, speaking with caution despite the obvious elation, said. "We have a good chance to close it (this series) out. But it's not impossible for them (Beermen) to win three in a row."

Ellis had 18 points, eight rebounds, three assists, two steals and a block in another splendid all-around effort.

"We have to come out (on Friday) and continue to battle," Ellis, never a finalist in his long career in the PBA, said. "We'll try to wrap it up, come out with our A-Game on Friday because they (Beermen) are a very tough team."

Jeffrey Cariaso, who hit all six free throws awarded him inside the final two minutes, went on to lead the Aces with 23 points. He also had five rebounds.

Another key was how the Aces held down the Beermen, who scored just four points in a six-minute stretch from 7:22, when Christian Calaguio scored a rare four-point play off Dale Singson.

The scores:
First Game

ALASKA 93—Cariaso 23, Ellis 18, Cortez 14, Hugnatan 10, Miller 9, Thoss 8, Laure 5, Belasco 4, Ferriols 2, Singson 0.

SAN MIGUEL 87—Ildefonso 16, Calaguio 14, Villanueva 13, Tenorio 9, Cablay 9, Young 8, Wilson 6, Racela 6, Gonzales 4, Pena 2.

Quarters: 21-27, 41-46, 60-68, 93-87

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Resign, GMA tells PSC officials /A25

JRU Bombers nip Stags; Blazers torch Cardinals

GAMES TOMORROW (*The Arena*)
2 p.m.—San Beda vs Perpetual (srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs St. Benilde (srs)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JAYSON NOCOM CANNED THREE FREE throws in the final two minutes while Mark Pradas swatted what could have been a game-tying layup as Jose Rizal eked out a hard-earned 68-66 win over San Sebastian yesterday in the NCAA men's basketball at the Arena in San Juan.

Mocom made two free throws off San Sebastian guard Pamboy Raymundo to shove the Heavy Bombers ahead, 67-66, a hairline cushion he later padded with a split in the final 31.5 seconds that pegged the final count.

The Stags had a chance to change that outcome, but could not execute properly. Instead, 6-foot-6 Jason Ballesteros tried to put up a point-blank shot that was squarely blocked by a soaring Pradas as time ran out.

The Bombers improved to 1-1, pulling down the Stags to the same win-loss record.

In the first game, St. Benilde got a lot of help from its four returning veterans, led by guard Paolo Orbeta, in turning back Mapua, 74-68, to post its first win of the season.

The Blazers also scored their first win in two years over the Cardinals, who slumped to 0-2.

Guard Paolo Orbeta, who begged off last season because he couldn't handle the pressure of leading a team with 10 rookies, scored 25 points, including four three-pointers to lead the Blazers.

"He felt there was too much pressure for him because we were mostly rookies last year," said St. Benilde coach Caloy Garcia of Orbeta, who is on his last year of eligibility in the league.

Christian Cabatu, Harvey Porras and Jeffrey Morial also made their presence felt after absences last season. The 6-foot-5 Cabatu, son of ex-PBA player Sonny, contributed 10 points and seven rebounds, while Porras, another 6-foot-5 frontliner, added eight points and five rebounds.

Morial was sidelined by an ACL injury last year. Cabatu and Porras had problems with their grades last season.

The scores:
FIRST GAME

ST. BENILDE 74—Orbeta 25, Cabatu 10, Sevilla 10, Porras 8, Robles 8, Johnston 6, Morial 3, Layug 2, Manlapaz 1, Urra 1, David 0, Montecastro 0, Cadiz 0.

MAPUA 68—Pascual 15, Dela Pena 11, Co 10, Del Rosario 8, Banal 8, Raneses 4, Guillermo 3, Sumalinog 3, Palomique 2, Mazo 2, Cornejo 2, Acosta 0.

Quarters: 21-17, 43-36, 60-51, 74-68

SECOND GAME

JRU 68—Hayes 14, Nocom 14, Sena 10, Agas 8, Pradas 5, Cagoco 5, Wilson 5, Bulangis 3, Se 2, Lituania 2, Cunanan 0, Ramos 0, Kabigting 0.

SAN SEBASTIAN 66—Bulawan 16, Raymundo 10, Viray 9, De Leon 8, Zulueta 8, Aquino 7, Ballesteros 5, Saquillo 3, Del Rio 0, Delgado 0, Quiamco 0, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 15-14, 28-30, 57-47, 68-66

La Salle, SSC dispute finals seat

GAME TODAY (*The Arena*)
5 p.m.—San Sebastian vs La Salle

SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE COACH ROGER Gorayeb was eyeing just two wins out of their four semifinal matches in the Shakey's V League women's volleyball tournament.

The Lady Stags achieved their target but it fell short of an automatic finals berth.

Instead, SSC has to battle La Salle one more time today for the right to face University of Santo Tomas in the best-of-three championship which starts Sunday, July 1.

Game time is set at 5 p.m. at The Arena in San Juan City.

SSC beat La Salle in their elimination round encounter on May 29, 25-17, 25-12, 25-16, but the Lady Archers got even, 25-17, 20-25, 25-21, 24-26, 15-13, on June 19.

La Salle, the three-time defending champion, will be playing its second knockout game after undergoing a similar match against Adamson University for the fifth and last semis seat.

"Whatever happens here, we will be happy because we have gained experience and preparation for tougher battles ahead," said La Salle coach Ramil de Jesus, referring to the coming UAAP season.

SSC tied with UST at 8-3 but was relegated to the playoff game because of an inferior quotient.

Romina S. Austria

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CATEGORIES
Open categories:
Difficulty Climbing on Lead, Men and Women
Speed Climbing on Top Rope, Men and Women

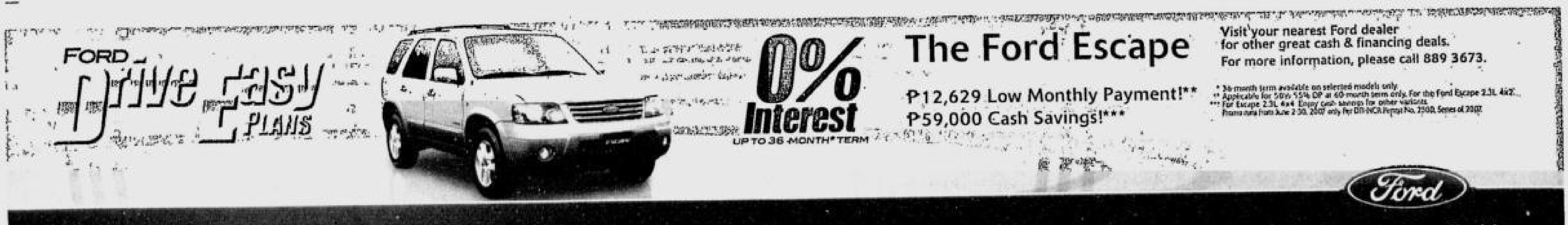
Juniors and Youth Categories:
Difficulty Climbing on Top Rope, Boys and Girls
Speed Climbing on Top Rope, Boys and Girls

Juniors Class A
Class A 1988 to 1990
Class B 1991 to 1993
Youth A born 1994 to 1996
Youth B born 1996 and later

GUIDELINES
a. All competitors must be registered members of SCAPI. Registration for new members and membership renewals will take place at the venue prior to the event.
b. All competitors must choose to rank in only one (1) category, either Open or Junior. A competitor though may choose to join both, categories.
c. Juniors divisions were altered to align our categories with the UIAA-ICC standards. ICC standards allow Juniors from 16-19 years old for world youth competitions.

SCHEDULES
June 28 Registration
June 29
0800 Arrival of participants
0900 Briefing of Rules
1000 Welcome Remarks and Opening Ceremony
1030 Start of Competition
2000 End of Day 1
June 30 Competition Day 2
July 1 Competition Day 3
1700 Awarding Ceremonies
1800 Celebration Dinner and Party

REGISTRATION FEE ₱350.00
To register or for more information, CALL
0917 - 883 - 2223 - Ipe
0918 - 902 - 0754 - Joey



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Make Every Day Exciting

70th UAAP season kicks off July 7

WITH A RENEWED RIVALRY AND A traditional heavyweight hoping to extend its reign at the top, the University Athletic Association of the Philippines storms back to the scene with the opening of the basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

A full field of eight teams will again see action, as La Salle , still rock-solid despite serving a year-long ban, makes its much-awaited return to the league.

The Archers return will mark the resumption of a fabled rivalry against the Ateneo Blue Eagle, on that will threaten to steal the spotlight away from the University of Santo Tomas' bid to repeat as basketball kings.

Colorful opening ceremonies usher in hostilities as Santo Tomas plays host using the theme: "Recreating the Values of Honesty Through Sports."

Santo Tomas' multi-titled Salinggawi Dance Troupe will perform during the elaborate rites, set to start at 1 p.m.

The basketball tournament will adopt a new rule for the year, with a total of 15 players, from 14 the previous seasons, now allowed to play.

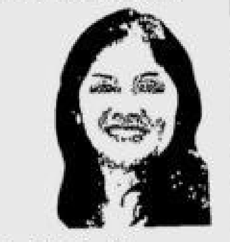
The defending champion Tigers take an opening day bye, leaving the Green Archers to debut against the University of the Philippines Maroons at 2 p.m.

National U and traditional power Far Eastern clash in the only other game scheduled at 4 p.m.

Most of the games will be played at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium along Vito Cruz in Manila, with the Tigers to debut there on Sunday against the formidable University of the East Red Warriors at 6 p.m.

MVP comes to the rescue

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

AS USUAL, ATENEO Blue Eagles coach Norman Black was very cautious in making his forecast for the incoming UAAP season.

Like everybody else, he said it would be a very exciting year, with teams like the returning De La Salle University Green Archers, defending champion University of Santo Tomas and the University of the East Warriors to watch out for.

After being sidelined for one season, the Green Archers are hungry for vindication. By showing their superiority in the Homegrown Cup and Nike Summer League, they let their opponents know what they were up against in the UAAP.

***

Ateneo, on the other hand, seems to be an unknown entity. The Eagles joined the Homegrown Cup and won all their games until they suddenly left midstream to train in Las Vegas.

Nobody knows for sure how strong the Eagles will be this season, considering their aggressive recruitment program and their US training.

All they know is that the Eagles will be very strong.

As for Norman's personal development program, he has been invited to attend an exclusive coaches/players camp in Italy where all the 15 participating coaches—except him—are involved in the NBA.

***

Because James Yap was invited to try out for the national team, he and wife Kris Aquino had to cancel a trip to Bangkok where they were supposed to celebrate their second wedding anniversary.

"We went *na lang* to Discovery Shores in Boracay instead," Kris said in a text message. "I'm praying James makes it to the final cut. He started practice last Monday."

***

MVP, as he is fondly called by most people who know him in the world of big business and sports, has once again come to the rescue, this time to help in the unending quest for an elusive Olympic gold medal.

Manny V. Pangilinan, who has backed his love of sports with solid financial support has stepped forward—after being asked of course—to help our amateur boxers, who most people believe have the best chance to win an Olympic gold.

After all, it's only in this sport that we have won two silver medals courtesy of Anthony Villanueva at the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 and Onyok Velasco in Atlanta in 1996.

Longtime friend Ronnie Nathanielsz told me that the late Joe Cantada, truly one of a kind, was the commentator in Tokyo for the Villanueva fight against burly Russian Stanislav Stepashkin. Ronnie and Anthony's father Cely Villanueva were in the dzHP studios in Manila .

Ronnie vividly remembers that the moment the decision was announced Joe screamed "we wuz robbed! We wuz robbed!" and had to be restrained from going after the judges. Remember, Smokin' Joe was a towering man, a weightlifter, bodybuilder and himself a collegiate heavyweight champion. In the studio, Cely jumped out of his seat, embraced Ronnie and cried.

Maybe, with MVP helping out, the next time we cry, it will be tears of joy for our first Olympic gold.

***

Once an idol to millions who he thrilled with his ring exploits—and anything he did as a matter of fact, including singing where he was not particularly sensational—Manny Pacquiao's stock has decidedly fallen over a number of issues.

From our point of view, Manny's troubles began when he began frolicking with politicians and was seen in casinos and at cockfights throwing away hard-earned money which didn't jibe with his announced intentions to help the poor. Imagine the difference he would have made if he spent his casino money on helping educate poor children or put up businesses for poor families.

The latest is that Manny is now facing a lawsuit from his former manager Shelly Finkel, which is going to cost him to defend. And he still has to collect the promised $5 million for his fights from promoter Bob Arum, who seldom seems to deliver on his grandiose promises.

Maybe, lawyer Romy Macalintal is right. Manny should take up law so he can defend himself against all the lawsuits and sue those around him who have swindled him of millions, especially in the last elections where he lost to Darlene Antonino Custodio.

***

SBP executive director Patrick Gregorio must really have that unifying talent, one of the reasons why he was chosen for the post by SBP President Manny Pangilinan. Imagine the people he wove together to form the coaching staff for the women's national team: Fritz Gaston as head coach with Bay Cristobal, Haydee Ong, Emelia Vega and Raymond Celis as his assistants. So far, no one's complaining.

Racela joins Inquirer book-reading for kids

BASKETBALL SUPERSTAR OLSEN RACELA WILL READ THE PRINCE WITH The Long Nose to children as he takes his turn as the guest reader in the INQUIRER Read-Along program on Saturday, June 30 from 10 to 11 a.m. Now on its fourth session, the San Miguel playmaker will join child stars Sam Concepcion and Cheska Ortega, University of the Philippines summa cum laude Mikaela Fudolig and singer-actress Manilyn Reynes in the roster of celebrities who have graced the program as guest readers. Launched on May 13, the program aims to teach kids to love reading by gathering children aged 7 to 13 for story-reading sessions with celebrities and role models. Interested participants may call Ellen Caparros or Girlie Refran at 8978808 local 329. Slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ateneo, La Salle golfers clash tomorrow

ARCHRIVALS ATENEO AND LA SALLE CLASH IN THE 2007 CLASSIC CUP tomorrow at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club. Nine categories will be featured in this year's edition. The winner of this tournament presented by Smart and PLDT permanently keeps the Classic Cup. Individual competition format will be adopted. Registration is between 6 to 7:30 a.m. Shotgun tee-off is at 8 a.m. at the North Course and 8:30 a.m. at the South Course. Several items will be raffled off at the awarding ceremony. For details, call ADMU Loyola, 4266001 loc. 4083; ADMU Graduate School, 7296866; DLSU-Manila (DLSAA Office), 5236158, 5265612 or log on to www.dlsaa.com; DLSU-PSI, 7534617; LSGH (LSGAA), 7212729 and 7227750; DLS-Zobel, 8428480; Canlubang Golf and Country Club, (049) 5491363.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
CITY OF BAYAWAN
SPECIALIZED BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
www bayawancity.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bayawan, through its Specialized Bids and Awards Committee, invites prospective suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid:

Bid Number	Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Fund
07-105B	Materials for the Construction of GK Socialized Housing, Scheme II-320 units (re-ad items)	P4,294,000.00	General Fund

Project Location/Delivery Area	Bayawan City Warehouse
Contract Duration	12 working days upon receipt of Purchase Order

The complete schedules of bidding activities are as follows:

ACTIVITY	DATE/S
Advertisement/Posting of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to bid	June 28, 2007
Issuance of Bid Documents	June 28, 2007
Deadline for the submission & Opening of Eligibility Requirements (for Non-Accredited Suppliers) & LOI for Accredited Suppliers (Specialized BAC Office)	July 5, 2007 (9:00 a.m.)
Deadline/Opening of Bids (Specialized BAC Office)	July 5, 2007 (10:00 a.m.)

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents will be available for issuance at the Specialized BAC Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall Bldg., Bayawan City (Tel. (035) 531-0800) upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee.

Prospective Bidders shall duly accomplish eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals and submit the same in 2 (two) separate sealed envelopes on or before the date indicated above

The Specialized Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to accept or reject all bids or part thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids considered most advantageous to the City Government of Bayawan

(Sgd.) PANCHO F. VILLASIS
Chairman, Specialized Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI–June 28, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development – Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-89-36
E-mail Address: bac_bicolmed@yahoo.com.ph
Fax No. (054) 473-89-36
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER, through General Appropriations Act intends to apply specified sum for the following projects:
   a) Project : PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS PHARMACEUTICALS (IAEB No. 2007-09)
   Approved Budget for the Contract: PESOS SEVEN MILLION SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO (PhP 7,685,372.00) ONLY
   Sale of Bid Documents June 28 to July 4, 2007
   Pre-Bid Conference July 4, 2007 – 9:00 A.M., BMC Library
   Bid Opening July 16, 2007 – 9:00 A.M., BMC Library
   Price of Bid Documents TWO THOUSAND PESOS (PhP2,000.00)
   b) Project : PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS MEDICAL / DENTAL & RADIOLOGY SUPPLIES (IAEB No. 2007-10)
   Approved Budget for the Contract: PESOS ELEVEN MILLION FIVE HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY SEVEN & 45/100 ONLY (PhP 11,508,597.45)
   Sale of Bid Documents June 28 to July 5, 2007
   Pre-Bid Conference July 5, 2007 – 9:00 A.M., BMC Library
   Bid Opening July 17, 2007 – 9:00 A.M., BMC Library
   Price of Bid Documents TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PhP2,500.00)
   Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated project. Deliveries of the goods are stated on the schedule of requirements.
   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BICOL MEDICAL CENTER and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon; 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents for the project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as stated above. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. The bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	(1% of ABC)
2. Bank guarantee	(1.5% of ABC)
3. GSIS Surety Bond	(2.5% of ABC)

Late bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below
8. The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address	BICOL MEDICAL CENTER Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos.	(054) 473-8936
E-mail Address	bac_bicolmed@yahoo.com.ph
Fax No.	(054) 473-8936
Website	http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm
Contact Person	JENSY S. ONG, MD, FPOA Chairman

(Sgd.) JENSY S. ONG, MD, FPOA
Chairman

(PDI–June 28, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
Municipality of Bayog
THE BAYOG BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

JBIC Loan PH-P200

SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT SCHOOL FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

Construction of Two-Storey, Six-Classroom Building with Toilet

Bayog NHS, Kahayagan, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) through the Department of Education has received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP) last December 28, 1999. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan together with the GOP counterpart funds will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Construction of Two-Storey, Six Classroom Building with Toilet. Disbursement of the ODA Loan from JBIC will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of Loan Agreement PH-P200. No party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claims to loan proceeds.
2. The Local Government Unit of Bayog now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders to enter into contract based on award for the Construction of Two Storey, Six Classroom Building with Toilet at Bayog NHS, Kahayagan Bayog which is envisioned to be completed within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the JBIC's Local Competitive Bidding procedures and is open to all Bidder's from eligible source countries as defined in the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI) and payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 2,000.00 from the SEDIP-NPMO, DepED Division of Zamboanga del Sur and the BAC office of Bayog. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative which will be issued on **June 29-July 4, 2007**.
5. The BAC Bayog will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **July 7, 2007**, 10:00 AM at the Municipal Hall of Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur.
6. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the Office of the BAC on or before **July 16, 2007 at 1:00 PM**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following forms: cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft, irrevocable letter of credit or a bank guarantee. Late Bids will not be accepted. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) will only be disclosed by BAC after the opening of bids in accordance with the instruction to Bidders. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder or its authorized representatives who choose to attend the opening of bids.
7. JBIC requires that all bidders and contractors as well as the LGU and DepED SEDIP, shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC: a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question; b) will recognize a contractors as ineligible, for a stated period of time if it, at any time determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing another contract financed in part from JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
8. The BAC of Bayog reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **PABLITO A. MATIAS**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 22 & 28, 2007)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project

Name of Project / Brief Description :	Item 1) Maintenance of 1400 licenses of Interscan Messaging Security Suite and Spam Prevention with IMSS + SPS + RBL for a period of one (1) year, and Item 2) Supply and delivery of additional 600 licenses of Interscan Messaging Security Suite and Spam Prevention Solution with IMSS + SPS + RBL per attached BSP's Technical Specifications.
Approved Budget for the Contract :	P 1,000,000.00 per item
Contract Duration / Delivery Period :	Item 1) One (1) year effective upon execution of the contract; and Item 2) Within thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of approved contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project awarded and completed within the last five (5) years (Y2002 to present) amounting to at least 50% of the approved budget for the contract for each item. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows.

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 25 June 2007
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	06 July 2007, 10:30 AM
3.	Opening of Bids	24 July 2007, 2:00 PM
4.	Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5.	Post-qualification	
6.	Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 for each item to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – June 28, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Regional Office No. V (Bicol)
Rawis, Legazpi City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

PUBLIC BIDDING FOR ONE (1) UNIT "BRAND NEW" POWERED DIESEL GENERATOR EQUIPMENT, SILENT TYPE, powered by Diesel Engine six (6) cylinder, in-line, direct injection engine, four (4) cycle water cooled. The Generator is capable of supplying: 400 kW (500 kVA) of power for standby application at 0.8 power factor, three (3) phase, 60Hz, 240 volts, at 1800 rpm and comes complete with standard accessories, Labor & Materials Cost for Installation and Transportation Cost.

1. The Department of Education RO V, through the **Regional Funds** intends to apply the sum of *Three Million Pesos (P3,000,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ONE (1) UNIT "BRAND NEW" POWERED DIESEL GENERATOR EQUIPMENT, SILENT TYPE, powered by Diesel Engine six (6) cylinder, in-line, direct injection engine, four (4) cycle water cooled. The Generator is capable of supplying: 400 kW (500 kVA) of power for standby application at 0.8 power factor, three (3) phase, 60Hz, 240 volts, at 1800 rpm and comes complete with standard accessories, Labor & Materials Cost for Installation and Transportation Cost. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The *DepED ROV* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for ONE (1) UNIT "BRAND NEW" POWERED DIESEL GENERATOR EQUIPMENT, SILENT TYPE, powered by Diesel Engine six (6) cylinder, in-line, direct injection engine, four (4) cycle water cooled. The Generator is capable of supplying: 400 kW (500 kVA) of power for standby application at 0.8 power factor, three (3) phase, 60Hz, 240 volts, at 1800 rpm and comes complete with standard accessories, Labor & Materials Cost for Installation and Transportation Cost. Delivery of the GOODS is required by July 16, 2007. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *DepED ROV* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00am - 5:00pm*.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. *Availability of Bidding Documents is on June 22, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*
6. The *DepED ROV* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested Bidders on June 25, 2007, 10:00 A.M. at the Director's Conference Room, DepED ROV, Rawis, Legazpi City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 A.M., July 6, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check in the amount of *Php 30,000.00* or Bank Guarantee in the amount of *Php 45,000.00* or Surety Bond in the amount of *Php 75,000.00*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on July 6, 2007, 10:00 A.M. at the Director's Conference Room, DepED ROV, Rawis, Legazpi City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *DepED ROV* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DepED ROV
Enrique A. Llegado
Rawis, Legazpi City
Tel No. (052) 820-40-45
Fax No. (052) 820-84-05

(Sgd.) ENRIQUE A. LLEGADO
BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 21 & 28, 2007)

HSBC sweeps elims

Standings:
Group A: HSBC (5-0), NCO Group (4-1), Sitel (3-2), Convergys (2-3), Branders (1-4), Sykes Asia (0-5).

HSBC TROUNCED NCO GROUP, 66-53, TO COMplete a five-game sweep of Group A elims in the 2007 MBT-Bayan Call Center League recently at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong City. Aside from NCO Group, other victims of HSBC in the event presented by Bayan Telecommunications supported by Span-the mobile landline phone and Mighty Filter Kings, were Branders (71-48), Sykes Asia (8-2-55) Convergys (66-57 and Sitel (86-77). NCO Group finished second with a 4-1 card followed by Sitel (3-2) and Convergys (2-3). Scott Nagle's Air Relay ruled the elims in Group B by crushing ICT, 78-40. It closed out with a 4-1 card. Air Relay's only loss in the event supported by Apo Floors, Basil 2000 Sportswear, Team Sparrow and Molten, was inflicted by newcomer Pacific Connexion in triple overtime, 105-98. Air Relay also claimed the scalp of defending champion TeleTech, 80-61. It also prevailed over Epixtar (72-54) and Alorica (67-49).

JONATHAN Tiu (left) runs barely ahead of Mico Vinarao at the halfway mark of the race at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Tiu rips nat'l drag mark

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—JONATHAN TIU OF Team Ere moved closer to the crown following another record-breaking performance recently in the fifth leg of the 2007 San Mig Coffee Drag Racing Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Maximizing the power of his Mitsubishi Evo 5, Tiu clocked 10.271 seconds to smash the Philippine record of 10.287 seconds and thwart runner-up Mico Vinarao of Blanche Racing in the Quick 8 division.

With his feat, Tiu hiked his total to 55 points and fortified his bid for the Drag Racing Driver of the Year award of this event presented by San Mig Coffee.

Vinarao checked in with 10.815 seconds which was declared by Race Director Fil Gulfin as the BRC quickest All-Motor record.

Tiu's bid for a double victory in the Pro division was spoiled by a loose screw that caused an oil spill, forcing him to slow down in his second round encounter against Mark Buquid of Autokeep Racing-Team Batangas who marked his first big win this season.

Buquid, who's backed by Visual Speed Auto Sign, posted 12.707 seconds in stunning Pro class leader Roy Peter Concepcion of Orthodox Racing who clocked 13.143 seconds.

Sharing the limelight with Tiu and Buquid in this series sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines were Mark Anthony de Ade of Lowtoys Racing and Vic Mallare of Team Ready.

De Ade turned back Michael Pua of Group N in the finals, clocking 14.910 seconds to rule the Sportsman class. Mallare, on the other hand, prevailed over Jet Santos of Blanche Racing with a time of 16.028 seconds to wrest the overall top spot in the Hot Street division with 30 points.

PSC execs resign–GMA

By June Navarro

MALACAÑANG HAS ASKED THE OFFICIALS of the Philippine Sports Commission to resign following a presidential directive ordering all cabinet secretaries and department heads to step down from their respective posts.

In a presidential circular signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, President Macapagal-Arroyo instructed the PSC board to file their courtesy resignations on or before June 30.

The PSC board is spearheaded by the agency's chair, William "Butch" Ramirez, and its commissioners, Ritchie Garcia, Leon Montemayor, Ambrosio De Luna and Joey Mundo.

"We serve at the pleasure of the President and we will vacate our positions if asked to do so," said Ramirez, who is bound for Guangzhou, China, today with Philippine Olympic Committee vice president Monico Puentevella.

Ramirez and Puentevella will accompany the 28-man Philippine delegation made up of athletes, coaches and a medical staff in China and return to the country on Saturday.

Ramirez and Puentevella will sign a memorandum of agreement with Chinese sports officials to allow the national athletes to train for two months under Chinese coaches.

RAMIREZ FIDEL PEREN

Garcia said the presidential directive is nothing new since he, along with the other officials of the PSC board, was also asked to resign during the term of deposed president Joseph Estrada.

"All government-appointed officials are asked to comply with the directive to give the president a free hand to select the officials of her choice," said Garcia.

Pilipinas Amateur Golf Tour starts today

THE INAUGURAL LEG OF THE PILIPINAS Amateur Golf Tour presented by Samsung blasts off today at the Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club in Cagayan de Oro City.

Veteran Tommy Manotoc will lead a crack Calatgan team out to pit their skills against local standouts like Banny Abano, Tristan Tabanas and Ondoy Mondilla in the Championship division of the tournament which will run up to Sunday.

Riviera Golf and Country Club will host the second leg on July 28-31, followed by Eagle Ridge for the third leg on Aug. 14-17. The fourth leg will be held at Malarayat Golf and Country Club from Oct. 8-11 while the fifth leg will be at Sherwoods Hills Golf Club from Nov. 26-29.

A 32-inch Samsung LCD television will be up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize for all the legs of this year's tour organized by the Professional Sports Management Inc and backed by Callway Golf, Mizuno and Titleists. Supporters include Custom Club Makers, Footjoy, Dynamic Sports Corp., Paramount Corp. and Gargol with Wave 89.1 as media partner. For details, call 635-0010 or 631-5768.

Pasay hosts daytime Friday derby

THE PASAY CITY COCKPIT HOSTS THE FIRST EVER DAYTIME 2-COCK DERby tomorrow. Winners in the event backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 will receive a guaranteed prize of P300,000. Entries must be submitted today from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. only. Slated on July 6 is a special 4-cock event with veteran gaffers Noli Estrelado and Albert Margem as hosts. Meanwhile, the Pasay Cockpit will celebrate its 21st anniversary by staging a 6-cock derby on July 16, 18 and 20, this time with a lower entry fee of only P11,000. The winners stand to receive a guaranteed prize of P2 million.

Las Pinas stagfest stakes P1 million

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE LAS PIÑAS COLISEUM BEGAN YESTERDAY the two-month long preparation for the annual LPC 7-stag derby on Aug. 23 and 25. Proceeds of this event will be donated to the Clean and Green program of Las Piñas City mayor Nene Aguilar. No less than P1 million in guaranteed prize awaits the winners, while entry fee is P22,000. Meanwhile, LPC's Fastest Win One-Cock *Ulutan* starts today. For details, call 8731040 and 0926 7450375.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Speed Almighty (3), Royal King (4), Unopposed (2)

Race 2—(Ort/Tri)—Golden Quartz (2), So Gorgeous (3), Arsenal/Instant (4), Cirque Du Soleil (5)

Race 3—(Tri)—Kiss of The Wind (3), Bull Rider (4), Moneyline (1)

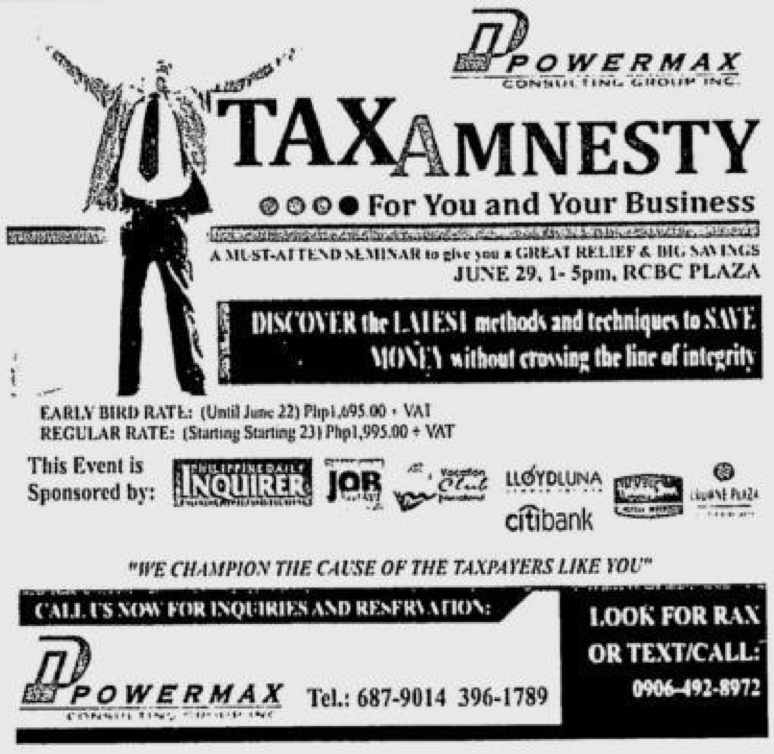
Race 4—(Ort/Tri)—Gun Powder (3), China Girl (4), Mr. Lucas (6), Holy King (5)

Race 5—(Tri)—Manila's Smile (1), Allysa's Choice (5), Idol (3)

Race 6—(Ort/Tri)—High Octane/Ocean Deep (6), Tiger Song (1), Harrod's Magic (5), Balang Westside (2)

Race 7—(Ort/Tri)—Common Goal (5), Pentagon (7), Stingray (6), Federal Court (8)

Race 8—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—My Special Moment (8), Jules Jek Jek (7), Dream Catcher/Blaze of Glory (5), Extreme Machine (6), Princess Tekai (1), Inspiring (4)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PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5291

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

	Approved Budget
13,255 bags of Bentonite under FGK 70525	*PHP 10,021,000.00*
Travelling Block under FDM 73506	*PHP 4,956,000.00*

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance upon payment of a non-refundable fee at the above address based on the following schedules:

PR No.	Date of Issue	Cost per Document	Contact Person
FGK 70525	June 19, 2007	PHP 1,500.00	Ms. Ma. Cristina Lynn M. Mercado loc. 5282
FDM 73506	June 19, 2007	PHP 2,000.00	Ms. Mitch B. Madrona loc. 5291

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **July 11, 2007 for FGK 70525 and July 4, 2007 for FDM 73506, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter, dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat **not later than 2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time) of July 25, 2007 for FGK 70525 and July 18, 2007 for FDM 73506.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI—June 28, 2007)

PHOENIX MARITIME CORPORATION
6F Feliza Bldg., 108 VA Rufino St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City
Tel. No.: (02) 867 1476; 867 2531 to 867 2533

Has elected its new set of **Board of Directors** for the period of April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

Ericson M. Marquez	Chair/President
Tricia Kristina M. Roxas	Corporate Secretary
Francis Jerome M. Marquez	Treasurer
Kenichi Iwakawa	Member
Toshio Entani	Member
Yoshio Ikeda	Member
Ma. Zenaida M. Marquez	Member
Erica Feliz M. Marquez	Member

This ad is in compliance with the requirements of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

(PDI – June 28, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Meralco Avenue, DepED Complex, Pasig City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (RE-BID)

The Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division (PFSED) of the **Department of Education** (DepED), through its **Bids and Awards Committee** (BAC), invites prospective bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project: Restoration of Various Heritage Buildings at Teacher's Camp, Baguio City
Location: Teacher's Camp, Baguio City

Package	Building	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Contract Duration (Calendar Days)
3	Cottages 101, 104, 105 / Guest House No. 6 / Administration Building	8,254,569.63	120
	TOTAL>>>>>>>>>	Php8,254,569.63	

Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected at bid opening. Late bid shall be rejected.

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed similar civil works (vertical construction) largest single contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC being bid, experience or completed contract(s) in restoration of historical or heritage building(s), and key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check and Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The Schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and Application for Eligibility, and Issuance of Eligibility Documents	June 28 - July 4, 2007 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
2. Submission/Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Deadline on July 5, 2007 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
3. Opening of Eligibility Requirements	July 6, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 9, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting on July 10, 2007
6. Pre-bid Conference Venue: Bulwagan ng Karunungan Rizal Bldg., I, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	July 17, 2007, 10:00 a.m.
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids Venue: Bulwagan ng Karunungan Rizal Bldg., I, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	July 31, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

The Eligibility Documents shall be available at **Procurement Service, BAC Secretariat, Rm. 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City** upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) and payment in cash of a non-refundable amount of **Philippine Pesos Five Hundred and 00/100 only (Php 500.00)**. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements in a sealed envelope to the BAC through the Procurement Service, BAC Secretariat at the address above. The results of the Eligibility Check may also obtain at the same address.

The BAC will only issue Bidding Documents to bidders declared as eligible to bid upon payment in cash of a non-refundable amount of **Philippine Pesos Five Thousand and 00/100 (Php5,000.00)** and a non-refundable amount of **Philippine Pesos One Thousand and 00/100 only (Php1,000.00)** for the Blue Print Copy of Plan per package. The BAC Secretariat could be reached through Tel. Nos. (02) 633-9343 or Fax No. (02) 636-6543. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org

The Purchaser assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid. Likewise, the Purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **JESUS G. GALVAN**
Asst. Secretary and BAC 2 Vice Chairperson

(PDI—June 28, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
EVA AIRWAYS CORPORATION 23/F LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City	San-Jung Lu	Finance Manager
SAMWOO M.K. CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION Unit 841 City & Land Mega Plaza ADB Ave. cor. Garnet St., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Kyujin Lee	Project Manager
SAMWOO M.K. CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION Unit 841 City & Land Mega Plaza ADB Ave. cor. Garnet St., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Byung Keun No	General Manager
MACRO ASIA CATERING SERVICES, INC. NAIA Cpd.,NAIA, Pasay City	Loy Choi Chan	Chinese Specialty Chef
MANILA MANDARIN HOTEL INC. (MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MANILA) Makati Ave cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Stephan Wieprich	Assistant Restaurant Manager
TUPPERWARE PHILIPPINES INC. 19/F Multinational Bancorporation, 6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Hock Seang Neoh	Vice President, Market Development
MAGIC HOME TUTORIAL CENTER, INC. 19 Lopez Jaena St., Ayala Hts., Old Balara, Quezon City	Hyo Jin Choi (w/o Lee)	Operation Manager
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Chung-Chieh Chou a.k.a Jacky Chou	Vice President
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Tso-Ming Chu	Risk Management Specialist
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Hui-Ling Yeh	Risk Management Specialist
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Meng-Yao Hsu	Risk Management Specialist
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Shih-Hsien Yang	Risk Management Specialist
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Chih-Hong Wang	Risk Management Specialist
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Ting-Jung Hsu	Risk Management Specialist
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Yu-Tsang Lin	Risk Management Specialist
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Hsiang-Yuan Chuang	Risk Management Specialist
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Chia-Yun Hsieh	Risk Management Specialist
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Chia-Wei Chuang	Risk Management Specialist
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Tzu-Ting Yang	Risk Management Specialist
MEOGUAN TRADING CO. LTD. 2008 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Hualin Wu	Assistant Manager
QINGLI PLASTIC MANUFACTURING CORP. 1154 C.M. Recto, Binondo, Manila	Jianshun Chen	General Manager
ANGORA MARKETING. LTD. CO. 102 Espiritu, San Antonio, Parañaque City	Ningbo Huang	Assistant Manager
BANANA LEAF CURRY HOUSE, INC. 7/F Annapolis St., Greenhills San Juan, M.M.	Pak Shing Au	Chinese Chef

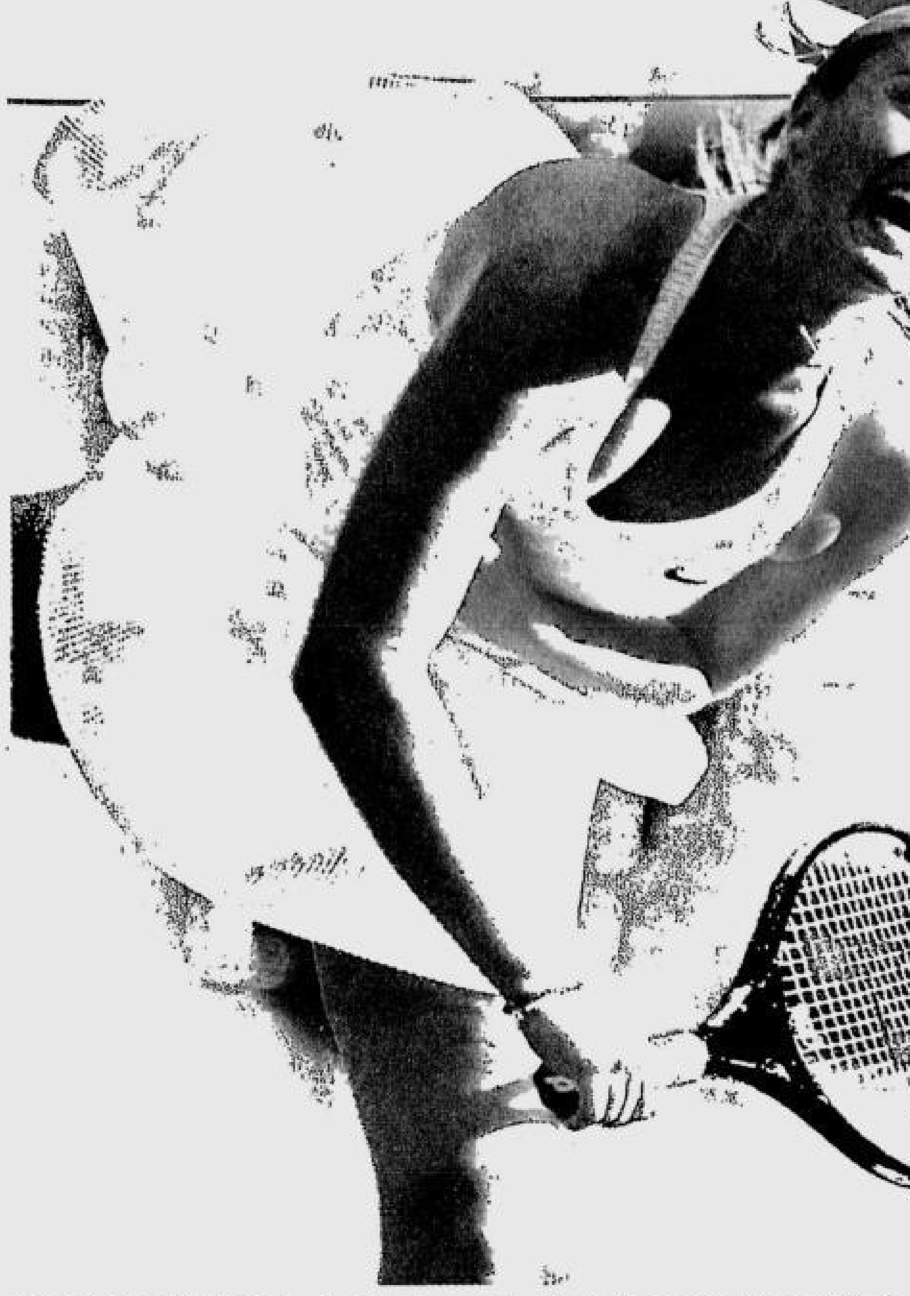
If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-0820.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI-June 28, 2007)

SPORTS



NO UGLY DUCKLING: Russian tennis sensation Maria Sharapova rifles a serve to Chinese-Taipei's Chan Yung-jan. Sharapova attracted more attention with her swan-inspired outfit than with her injury-slowed game. AFP

Venus rises, avoids tennis 'Graveyard'

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—THREE-time champion Venus Williams came back from a break down in the last two sets to avoid a major first-round surprise Tuesday against a Russian teenager playing her first match at Wimbledon.

Williams appeared on the brink of defeat, but came up with big first serves and baseline winners on crucial points to overcome Alla Kudryavtseva, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5, in nearly two hours on Court 2—known as the "Graveyard of Champions" for its history of upsets.

Williams was two points from defeat while serving at 5-4 down, 30-30, in the final set. But the Russian missed a backhand, and Williams smacked a 192 kph (119 mph) service winner to hold. Williams then broke in the next game and served out the match at love.

"I enjoy the battle," Williams said. "I enjoy winning matches like this. This is what I do. If you want to be successful at anything, it doesn't come easy."

Two other Wimbledon women's champions had a much easier time in reaching the second round. Defending champion Amelie Mauresmo beat Jamea Jackson of the United States, 6-1, 6-3, while 2004 winner Maria Sharapova downed Chan Yung-jan of Taiwan, 6-1, 7-5.

Sharapova, the 2004 champion, ran around Court 1 at Wimbledon on Tuesday with fabric frills sewn into the back of her white dress that fluttered behind her. The outfit was inspired by a swan.

"Originally it didn't have as many pleats in the back," Sharapova said. "I wanted there to be more of a pleat effect in the back, and I think the end result made it look more like a swan.

"Even on a hanger, it doesn't look as swan-ish as it does on me."

Sharapova admitted she needed to up her game for the rest of Wimbledon.

"I was little passive, especially on her second serves, which I attacked really well in the first (set) but didn't really take advantage of in the second," Sharapova said.

The second-seeded Russian said she was still troubled by a right shoulder injury. She had nearly two months off before playing at the French Open.

Sharapova said she needed to add strength in her shoulder to completely overcome the injury, but had struggled to find the time to fit in the work between tournaments.

"Some days I don't have as much confidence in my arm," Sharapova said. "During this tournament, I will have to be on anti-inflammatories.

In men's play, second-seeded Rafael Nadal and former champion Lleyton Hewitt were among the winners, but Britain's Tim Henman drew the loudest cheers by outlasting Carlos Moya, 13-11, in the fifth set.

It took two days for Henman to win his first-round match against Moya.

A double-fault by Moya on the third match point of the 24th game of the set gave Henman a 6-3, 1-6, 5-7, 6-2, 13-11 win that enthralled the Center Court crowd.

Henman, a four-time semifinalist playing in his 14th Wimbledon, had been tied 5-5 with Moya in the fifth set when the first-round match was stopped because of darkness Monday night. Henman missed four match points at 5-4.

"It would have been pretty sweet to finish it off last night," he said. "Perhaps this scenario is even better."

Nadal, coming off his third straight French Open title on clay, looked sharp in his return to the Center Court grass, beating Mardy Fish, 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Hewitt, the only champion in the men's field other than four-time winner Federer, beat British wild card Richard Bloomfield, 7-5, 6-3, 7-5. *AP*

Ramirez: I can't make it to Beijing without Ty

By Dennis U. Eroa
Libre sports editor

TOP FILIPINO GYMNAST ROEL RAMIREZ yesterday said he won't join the Olympic qualifying tournament without resigned coach Santiago "Sonny" Ty, saying that making the grade in the Beijing Olympics seems unattainable without his longtime mentor.

The 25-year-old had earlier said he would compete in the Artistic World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, in an attempt to notch a slot in next year's Olympics.

But the absence of Ty, who recently quit as head coach of the national men's artistic gymnastics team, changed his mind.

"The ongoing trouble in the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines pains and confuses me," said Ramirez. "While I need to compete to make it to Beijing, I'd rather not go without coach Ty by my side."

"One look, one wink [from him] and I know what to do," said Ramirez, a double-gold medalist in the 2005 Manila Southeast Asian Games.

As this developed, a private sponsor of the men's team said he is no longer keen on funding the team to the World Championships. Johnny A. Valdes owner of Johnny Air Cargo and other global companies said, "As far as I'm concerned, coach Ty is the most qualified among our coaches."

China-bound RP athletes leave today

By June Navarro

AFTER MONTHS OF WAITING, THE PHILIPpine Sports Commission will finally send off the first wave of Olympic-potential athletes today for a two-month training in Guangzhou, China, on a trial basis.

According to PSC chair Butch Ramirez, the 20 athletes from diving, wushu, weightlifting and fencing will stay for 60 days at the Guangzhou International Training Center, a first of its kind built for China's hosting of the Olympics next year.

Ramirez said the extension of the two-month contract with Chinese sports authorities on the Filipinos training will depend on the output and performance of the athletes.

"After two months, we will assess if the athletes are getting what we are expecting them to get out of this training," said Ramirez.

The PSC chief said the Filipinos will join athletes from the Middle East and New Zealand.

Originally scheduled last March, the foreign exposure of the athletes was moved after its staunchest supporter, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, underwent a delicate open-heart surgery.

SORENSTAM AP

Annika faces stiffest Open challenge

SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA—The gradual slide from the top of women's golf began at the major championship that brought Annika Sorenstam so much satisfaction.

She salvaged her worst season of this decade last year at the US Women's Open, a week where everything went right. The thick fog that wiped out the first round at Newport Country Club gave her an extra day to refine her swing. Her stamina carried her through 36 holes on Sunday, and a four-shot victory in the 18-hole playoff.

That also was when she first felt slight soreness in her neck, which was nothing more than a nuisance at the time. It turned into much more than that. Only nine months later did Sorenstam realize she had a bulging disk in her back and a ruptured disk in her neck, knocking her out of competition for two months.

"It's funny how things come together one way or another," Sorenstam said on Tuesday.

What she craves now is for everything to fall back into place. The US Women's Open is her third tournament back after recovering from her injuries, and already the world she once ruled has changed so much.

Lorena Ochoa is the No. 1 player in women's golf, expanding her lead in the ranking by winning last week in a playoff. Morgan Pressel became the youngest major champion in US LPGA history when the 18-year-old captured the Kraft Nabisco Championship. The other major went to Suzann Pettersen, a dynamic Norwegian and disciple of the "Vision 54" concept under which Sorenstam matured into a star.

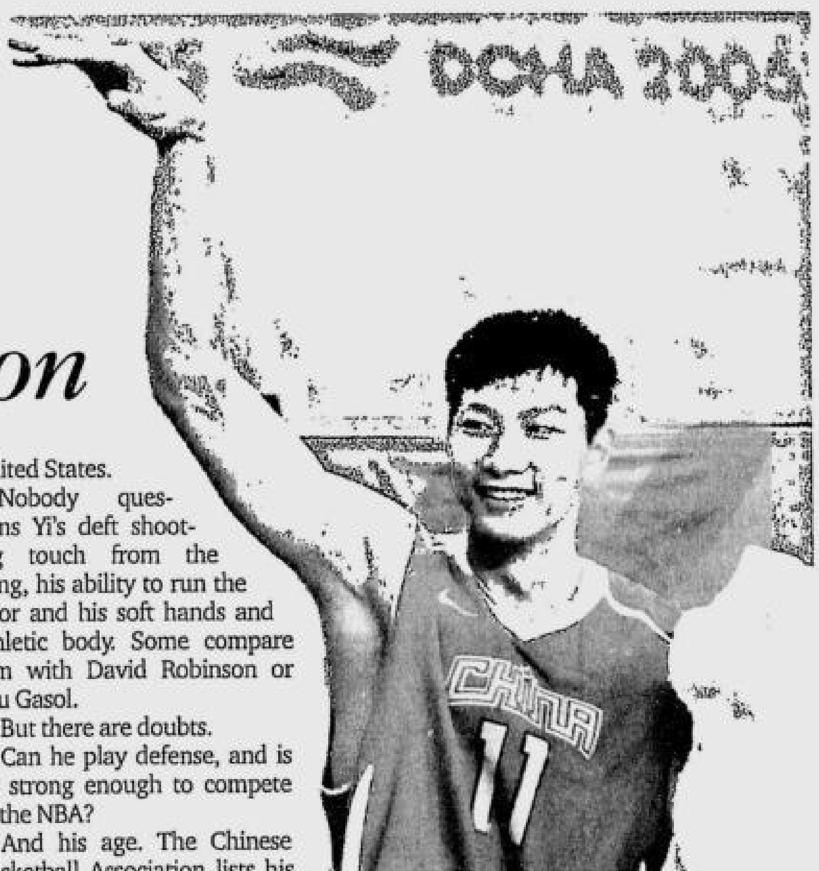
There are two dozen teenagers at Pine Needles, and that doesn't include 12-year-old Alexis Thompson, the youngest qualifier ever.

For Sorenstam, the challenge has rarely been this severe—and just from the competition.

"My challenges are that I have not been 100 percent for a while, and it's been tough to get motivated," she said. "I'm looking forward to getting my motivation back."

She doesn't look at Ochoa, still missing a major to validate her role as No. 1, rather at herself. There is a part of Sorenstam that believes she decides who's the best, and it starts with her getting healthy. *AP*

After Yao, comes Yi in Chinese NBA invasion



YI: Impact unknown AP

BEIJING—THEY LOVE YAO. NOW comes Yi.

That's Yi Jianlian, the 7-foot power forward who will be picked high in Thursday's NBA draft.

He'll be the fourth Chinese to make the NBA, but will he have an impact like the Houston Rockets' Yao Ming? Or will his stay be short, matching those of Wang Zhizhi and Mengke Bateer who had modest NBA careers.

Yi (pronounced Ee) is a mystery in an NBA draft in which American college players Greg Oden and Kevin Durant are expected to go 1-2. Speculation has Yi going as high as No. 3, and most think he'll be picked in the top 10.

"Yi the X-factor in jackpot draft," read a recent headline in the state-run China Daily newspaper.

If Yi makes it big, it will be even easier for the NBA to make deeper inroads into China, where basketball is very popular. About 300 million Chinese play the game, and NBA jerseys are a badge for teenage boys, just as they are in the United States.

Nobody questions Yi's deft shooting touch from the wing, his ability to run the floor and his soft hands and athletic body. Some compare him with David Robinson or Pau Gasol.

But there are doubts.

Can he play defense, and is he strong enough to compete in the NBA?

And his age. The Chinese Basketball Association lists his birthday as Oct. 27, 1987—19 at draft time. But some believe he's about three years older. Teams might give a 19 year-old time to develop, but a 22-year-old is expected to be a finished product.

"He's definitely a great athlete who can be an NBA project for any team," said Xia Song, an NBA analyst on Beijing's BTV. "The draft is hard to predict unless you are a Yao Ming or LeBron James or Michael Jordan."

Yi played on China's 2004 Olympic team and the 2006 World Championship team. And his numbers were impressive this season in the Chinese Basketball Association with the Guangdong Tigers—averaging 25 points and 12 rebounds. *AP*

LeBron says yes to US five

AKRON, OHIO—CLEVELAND'S NBA ALL-Star forward LeBron James ended uncertainty about his US national team status Tuesday by saying he will play in next month's Fiba America's Tournament, where the Americans will try to qualify for the 2008 Olympics.

"I'm going to play," James told The Associated Press. "I've had enough time off, and knowing my body more than anybody, I'm ready to play. I don't know how much I'm going to play or how extensively, but I'll be ready."

For several months, James had said he was "50-50" about playing for Team USA this summer. He and his girlfriend recently had their second son, and with the Cavaliers making it to the NBA finals, James may have wanted some extra time off after playing more than 100 games since last October.

However, the 22-year-old, who played on the US Olympic team at the 2004 Athens Games and for the US squad that won a bronze medal at last summer's world championships, intends to honor his three-year commitment with USA Basketball.

"It was a long and tough year," James said. "But for me, if I make a commitment, I want to keep it. I'm a loyal guy. I committed to three years and I'm going to hold up my end of the bargain."

So far, USA Basketball has commitments from Kobe Bryant, Jason Kidd, Carlos Boozer, Chauncey Billups, Deron Williams, Mike Miller, Tayshaun Prince, Tyson Chandler, Amare Stoudemire, Michael Redd, Greg Oden and Kevin Durant. *AP*

'Tac' joins SEAG a record 15th time

FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED 15TH time, national pistol champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla will represent the Philippines in the 24th Southeast Asian Games scheduled in Thailand late this year.

The 42-year-old Padilla, general manager of the family owned Spring Cooking Oil, earned a slot on the national shooting team together with skeet and trap shooters Paul Brian Rosario, Patricio Bernardo, Eric Ang and Jethro Dionisio.

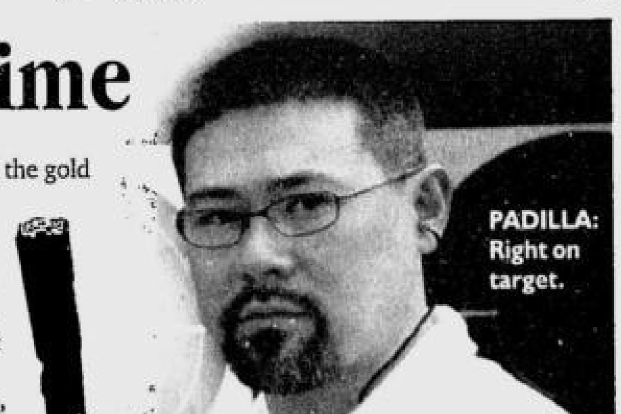
"It's a big honor to carry the country's colors in a prestigious international event like the SEA Games," said Padilla, who was only 13 when he made his first SEAG appearance in 1977. His coming stint would have been his 16th in the SEAG—the most by any Filipino athlete—if the pistol events were not cancelled in the Brunei Games in 1991 due to lack of facilities.

In the past 14 teams he competed in the SEAG, Padilla never failed to bring home a medal.

Padilla, who has also been recommended for inclusion in the First Gentleman's Olympic training program for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, won a silver in rapid fire pistol two years ago in Manila. So far, he has equaled the gold medal score of 564 twice in the ongoing monthly qualifying competition.

Dionisio, Rosario and Gay Josefina Corral were also endorsed to the FG Olympic training program.

In the Manila SEAG, Rosario bagged the individual and team golds and Bernardo won a team gold in skeet while Ang and Dionisio bagged the team silver in trap. Ang also copped the trap individual bronze.



PADILLA: Right on target.

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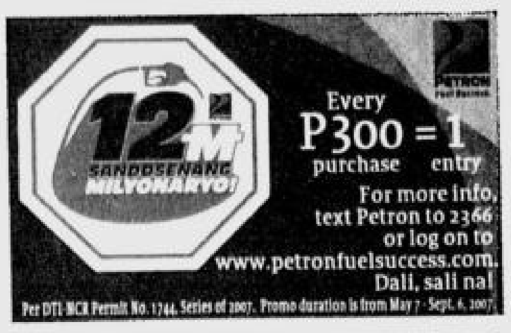

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Call centers reeling from strong peso

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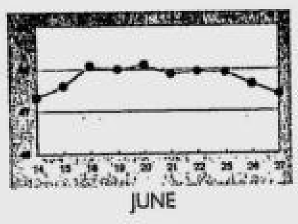

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Gov't assistance through tax subsidies eyed

By Riza T. Olchondra

LAPU-LAPU CITY—BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING (BPO) firms have expressed concern over the effects of the strong peso on their operations and are considering seeking government help.

"The rapid rise of the peso has caught BPOs flatfooted. It caught us unprepared," said Oscar Sañez, chief executive of the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) on the sidelines of the Cebu ICT 2007 conference.

The peso has repeatedly surged since late 2006, fueled by strong overseas remittances, rising foreign investments, and a generally positive economic outlook.

Sañez acknowledged that a stronger peso resulted in better debt servicing and lower fuel and electricity costs, but said that BPO firms' labor expenses were rising because they quote contracts in dollars.

Low-cost labor and a ready pool of English-speaking employees are among the Philippines' main strengths in the BPO industry, but the stronger peso is pushing labor costs up. A call center agent now receives about P15,000 or $326, compared to only $300 last year.

"A very strong peso is a disincentive to investing in our space," PeopleSupport president Ramon Borja said.

Sañez disclosed that the BPAP was in talks with PhilExport and CEPI, the organization for the microchip industry, to seek government help.

"We would welcome government assistance in the form of tax subsidies or credits and in bringing down the cost of doing business," he said.

According to the BPAP, the BPO in-

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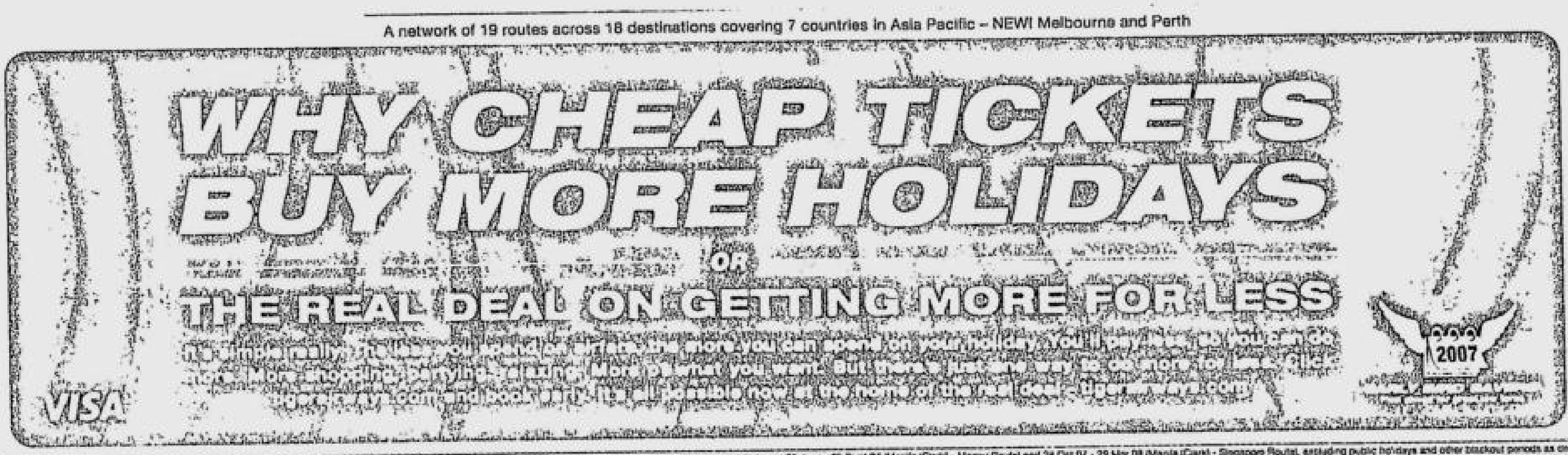
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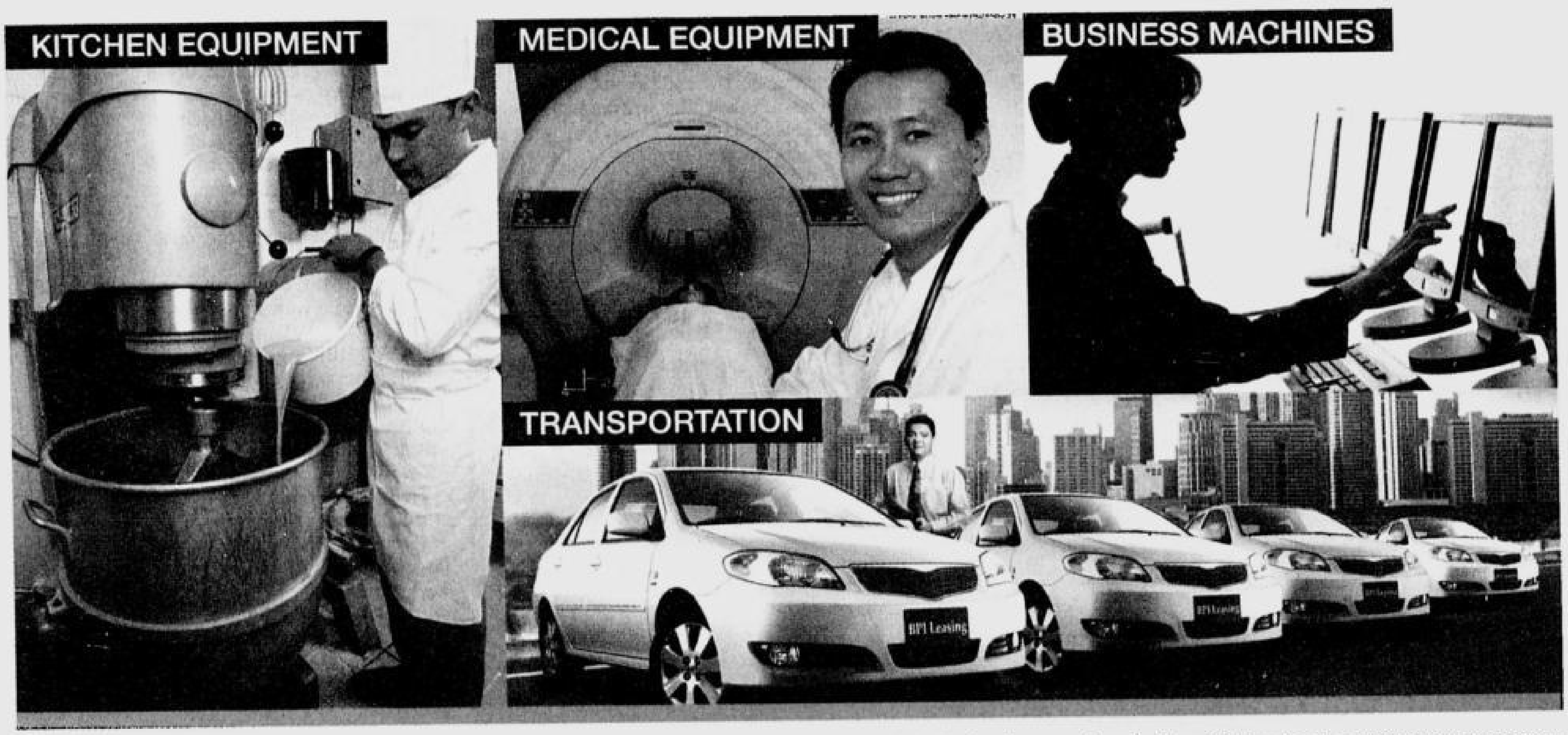

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Electronics sector posts 127% growth in investments

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTMENTS INFUSED INTO the domestic electronic sector rose by 127 percent in the first five months to $680 million, mainly due to the initial outlay made by Texas Instruments Philippines for its expansion plans.

Ernie B. Santiago, incoming president of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, said in an interview that TI Philippines' $400-million investments made Seipi confident that this year's target inflow for the sector of $1 billion would be surpassed.

TI Philippines had committed to invest $1 billion in a new production facility in Clark economic zone in Pampanga, which is intended to be the most environmentally efficient assembly and test site in the world.

Assembly and test operations are the final step in semiconductor manufacturing before chips are shipped to customers.

Given an area of 77,000 square meters, the expansion site would double the company's production capacity.

Santiago said in an earlier interview that TI Philippines' project was expected to be a magnet for investments in support and allied industries, especially since the company has at least 500 firms supplying its older operations in Baguio City.

Also yesterday, Santiago said Seipi expected the sector's second-quarter export performance to be better than the 13-percent growth posted in the first quarter.

"We are confident that we would achieve our target export growth of some $3 billion or 10 percent this year," he said.

"We posted 8.2 percent so far in the first four months, and considering that the first semester is historically (slower), things are looking good for the rest of the year," he added.

Seipi yesterday kicked off this year's edition of its yearly industry convention and exhibition at the Hotel Sofitel.

The conference and trade show gathers managers and other frontline decision-makers in the industry.

"This also serves as a prelude to an international forum that would gather industry leaders and managers in Cebu in August," Santiago said.

DA seeks raise in rice program budget for '08

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE said it had to double its budget for rice productivity program in 2008 to P6.5 billion to attain the rice self-sufficiency goal of 99 percent by 2010.

"We expect to meet our goal if we can put in place all the irrigation facilities we need and expand the scope of our hybrid seed program by next year," said Frisco Malabanan, executive director of the Gintuang Masaganang Ani Rice program.

For this year, P3.12 billion was earmarked for the GMA Rice Program.

In a statement, Malabanan said the DA would allot P4 billion for irrigation and P2.5 billion for the other components of the program, including hybrid seed subsidies.

Under the rice program, the DA aims to expand the areas planted to hybrid seeds from 319,000 hectares in 2006 to 500,000 ha in 2008 and 600,000 ha in 2010.

The agency is targeting to irrigate 1.3 million ha to 1.5 million ha of farmlands over the next three years.

This is seen to boost rice production to more than 19 million metric tons by 2010, Malabanan said.

When the DA started its irrigation program in 2001 and 2002, palay production was averaging at only 12 million MT a year, he added. In 2006, production rose to 15.3 million MT.

Gov't eyes sale of stake in PNOC-EDC

Finance expects to raise P50B from the firm's full privatization

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT SAID IT WAS TARGETing to sell its entire 60-percent stake in Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) within the year, and raise P50 billion in additional revenue.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said this and the expected P50 billion to be raised from the planned sale of the government's shares in San Miguel Corp. and another P5 billion from sale of its stake in Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) would be more than enough to cover for the tax collection shortfall in the first five months of the year.

In December last year, the government sold 40 percent of its stake in PNOC-EDC through an initial public offering. The sale, which left the government with 60 percent in the company, generated $337 million in revenue, making it the biggest IPO last year.

Teves said privatization officials had agreed to sell the remaining 60 percent before the end of the year to help boost government revenues. The plan is to dispose of the first 20 percent in August, and the rest in October, he said.

PNOC-EDC, established in 1976, is engaged in the exploration and development of geothermal and other viable energy resources. It sells steam to the state-owned National Power Corp.

The company operates nine geothermal steam fields with combined capacity of 1,145 megawatts, which accounts for about 60 percent of the country's total installed geothermal capacity.

Teves said the Department of Finance was bent on pushing privatization efforts to shore up revenue collection and ensure that fiscal targets were met. For this year, the government aims to reduce the budget deficit to P63 billion from last year's P64.8 billion.

The government is sticking to the target despite the tax collection shortfall in the first five months of the year, expecting a recovery in revenue collection in the second half.

In January to May, the Bureau of Internal Revenue collected P285.59 billion in taxes, representing a P28.62-billion shortfall from the P314.21-billion goal set for the period.

The budget deficit hit P41.76 billion in the first five months of the year, breaching the P36.66-billion ceiling set for the period.

To keep the deficit within the ceiling, Teves said, the government should simply implement administrative measures to improve efficiency in the collection of taxes and to boost privatization efforts.

He said it was not wise for the government to cut down on spending just to meet the deficit-reduction goal. He said it was also not advisable at the moment to impose new taxes just to stay within the budget deficit ceiling for the year.

Easy to Jet

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

OH NO, NOT AGAIN—THEY cannot be lobbying for zero-tariff on cement again!

According to news reports, some big-time importers (i.e. with short names) are pestering this cute administration of Gloriaetta to remove the cement tariff.

One of them reportedly is part of the same group that, only a few years ago, already bothered the courts with the same issue.

Today, our government levies import duties of 3 percent on cement from Asean members and 5 percent on the others.

But the intense lobby wants this administration to do away with the modest protection for the local industry against dumping that, in fact, persists up to now.

If the easy-to-get Palace succumbs to it, we may as well close down the local cement plants.

Never mind that the cement industry rose up from the grave in the 1990s, resurrected with massive investments from foreign groups, worth more than P100 billion.

The same cement industry also pays yearly taxes of about P6 billion.

Above all, the sector employs more than 12,000 workers—not to mention those in downstream and upstream industries connected to cement making.

All that gone! What for? So that some groups can make a killing!

Now let's hear from Meneleo Carlos, chair emeritus of private group Federation of Philippine Industries, who says cement importers—i.e. the lobby group—do not pay taxes, do not create jobs, and do not invest in their business. In short, they just make a lot of money.

But remember, for a moment, that the government itself urged the investors to pour those billions into the dying local cement industry.

Just how easy it is for this cute administration to kill them, now that they are, er, "committed" in this country, remains the question.

Still, we all know that the whole world is watching.

***

IN ANOTHER signal about its resoluteness in going global, San Miguel Corp. is tapping a Hollywood actor from Asia to endorse its products in the region.

He is none other than action star (i.e. kung fu) Jet Li.

From what I hear, the country's largest food and beverage business, now about 117 years old, partnered with the international action superstar because it is launching its biggest and most ambitious ad campaign in the region so far.

The theme of the campaign will be the San Miguel advertising trademark "camaraderie"—you know, *pakikisama* and all that.

That should be easy to Jet, if I may call him that. Well, it is an Asian trait after all.

But aside from being famous, my good friend Jet has his own social causes. (He is one of the more famous figures behind "The One Foundation.")

Somebody high up in San Miguel perhaps thought that, because of his image, my best buddy Jet could be a solid role model in the region.

I can only agree. I mean, my *compadre* Jet's commitment to some bigger causes makes him a perfect spokesperson for a Pinoy firm like San Miguel.

But only quite a few of you may know that my cousin Jet actually got his screen name in the Philippines sometime in the 1980s.

His Chinese name (in Mandarin) is actually Li Lian Jie (anglicized). The local film producer simply dropped the "Lian" and westernized the rest by putting his given name first—thus, Jie Li.

Then one bright guy said my half-brother Jet's career was taking off like a jet plane, anyway, and so they should just call him Jet.

San Miguel may be feeling the rush already from this supersonic campaign takeoff.

***

THE MAJORITY of the homeowners in a development called "Ecology Strip" (that narrow stretch of townhouses in Makati) are retirees.

They also probably spent their life savings to renovate their dwellings.

This is the bad news for them: A court ruling is forcing them out of their homes.

The whole Ecology Strip was the target of an "attachment" order from the Pasig Regional Trial Court (Branch 159 of Judge Rodolfo R. Bonifacio), which was dated March 2005.

Today, from what I heard, the beneficiary of the court order is moving heaven and earth, plus some government people like the sheriff's office, to implement the order. Meaning, the folk in the strip must move out!

The beneficiary is none other than Fruehauf Electronics Phils. Corp., which is supposedly owned by a certain Antonio Litonjua.

In December 2002, a court ruling, in effect, awarded some P270 million to Fruehauf in its case against DPWH involving a property swap deal.

The homeowners in Ecology Strip of course had nothing to do with the court case.

Which of course gave a certain sheriff, Manuel Lacdao, a good reason, from out of nowhere, to attach the Ecology Strip property for auction, including the homes of those retirees.

Nobody in the real estate sector, nobody in the government and, certainly, nobody among the retirees at the Ecology Stip knew about the quietly done bidding.

Not surprisingly, Fruehauf was the highest bidder at only P173 million.

It is hard to say if Fruehauf is acquiring a prime property for a song.

But we are talking here about a property of 125,617 square meters, which therefore bestows upon Fruehauf a handsome price of P1,706 per square meter.

What's this—a garage sale? That is cheaper than land in slum areas. Gosh, it is even cheaper than banana cue!

And I heard that Fruehauf is turning the strip into a multibillion-peso condo-commercial-area project, similar to Ayala Land's Greenbelt and Serendra.

Yet nobody in this cute administration, as far as I know, is stepping into this lope-sided deal. Okay—out-and-out robbery!

Only the Office of the Solicitor General filed its "Petition for Annulment of the Sale" before the Makati court, which was nevertheless just a token resistance.

There already seems to be an, er, "understanding" somewhere up there where everybody's already happy, if you get my drift.

Only those poor soon-to-be-homeless retirees are not. No wonder, folks, Trillanes handily won!

Cigarette firms clash over excise tax law

By Leila B. Salaverria

SAYING ITS LUCKY STRIKE BRAND SUFfers from higher taxes while its competitors pay a lower amount, British American Tobacco (BAT) has asked the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional the tobacco excise law.

The plea was, however, opposed by intervenor Fortune Tobacco Corp., through counsel Estelito Mendoza, as it sought the junking of BAT's claims that the excise tax law "is unfair, discriminatory, and violates the equal protection clause of the Constitution."

The tobacco excise law, contained in Section 145 of the National Internal Revenue Code, levies higher taxes on cigarette brands that entered the market after 1996.

BAT counsel Carlos Baniqued said the tobacco excise law was discriminatory because under it, brands that entered the market after 1996 were imposed taxes based on their current retail prices while older brands paid taxes based on their 1996 retail prices.

Mendoza told the court, however, that BAT had only itself to blame for paying higher taxes for Lucky Strike as the provisions being questioned were already in place when it entered the local market in 2001. The law took effect in 1997.

Assistant Solicitor General Renan Ramos defended the NIRC provision, saying it was not accurate to say that the excise tax law 'prevented cigarette firms from having a level playing field.'

Ramos said the tax was based on the date a player entered the market.

"They came in late. It's not the fault of other cigarette brands if they joined the market earlier," he said. "Nobody prevented (BAT) from entering the market earlier."

"The excise tax law on tobacco is discriminatory against new brands," Baniqued said.

During oral arguments at the Supreme Court, he said Lucky Strike's competitors—like Marlboro and Philip Morris—were slapped lower taxes just because they were in the market earlier.

"The tax paid by old brands is effectively frozen in time back in 1996," he said in a statement.

In the meantime, Mendoza said Fortune Tobacco intervened in the case because declaring the tobacco excise tax law unconstitutional would lead to 'economic chaos.' This was because manufacturers would not know the basis for levying taxes on cigarette products, he added.

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PCCI calls for more infra projects

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and Industry yesterday pushed for more infrastructure development in the regions to sustain the economic growth seen in the first quarter.

PCCI president Samie Lim said infrastructure originally earmarked for agriculture—like farm-to-market roads—could also serve the requirements of tourism.

Lim said the tourism sector was expected to contribute more significantly to national income considering improved promotional efforts as well as increasing international travel in the region.

"Infrastructure is the key to link our more than 7,000 islands in terms of product shipments as well as access for domestic and international travelers," he said.

PCCI chair Donald G. Dee said infrastructure spending should be improved from the current level of less than 3 percent of gross domestic product.

"We had (come quite close to achieving) the new growth threshold of 7 percent and we must take the necessary steps in our hope to move to growth rates of 8 percent or 9 percent," Dee said.

However, Cielito F. Habito, director of the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development, said during PCCI's general membership meeting yesterday that the 6.9-percent GDP growth rate was made possible because of drastic statistical revisions in the 2006 national income accounts.

"This is highly unusual considering that nobody changes data from a previous quarter [last quarter of 2006]," said Habito, a former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority.

"As a result (of the revision), Missi data for the manufacturing sector contradicts the national income accounts data," he said.

Habito was referring to the Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries or Missi, which covers 24 major manufacturing subsectors through the monitoring of the prime commodities they produce and is used to measure production volume—an essential part of GDP data.

"Our statistical system should undergo a thorough review," he said.

At the same time, Oscar M. Lopez, a member of the PCCI council of advisers, said sustaining the first quarter's growth rate was not possible with the current mix of contributing factors.

Lopez, who is chair of First Philippine Holdings Corp., explained that the exodus of labor was straining domestic businesses.

He added that the growth in government spending may not be sustainable considering the situation in revenue generation and capital investment was hardly contributing to overall economic growth.

"For the country to be able to (sustain growth), government must proactively address each and every stumbling block that makes us economically uncompetitive by developing and enacting the proper legislation and implementing such legislation," Lopez said.

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Farmers try their hand at teaching

By Amy R. Remo

FILIPINO FARMERS ARE NOT MERE TILLERS of land with a carabao and plough in tow.

They can also be adept at selling rice and teaching fellow farmers.

The National Food Authority, through its Institutionalized Farmers as Distributor (Ifad) program, has given farmers in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro a chance to directly participate in the marketing and distribution of imported rice.

Meanwhile, farmer recipients of the Philippine Rice Research Institute's extension activities in Currimao, Ilocos Norte have decided to pay it forward by sharing what they have learned with fellow farmers.

"A farmer-to-farmer approach is an effective way of disseminating information and convincing other farmers to adopt rice and rice-based technologies in Currimao," they said.

This group of Currimao farmers said they decided to become teachers after winning the best farmer-led extension activity initiated by PhilRice during the 5th Palayamanan Farmers' Congress.

The farmer-teachers of Currimao added that "teaching is their noble way of curing boredom after a field day's work" since they help uplift lives of fellow farmers.

According to PhilRice, these "teachers" have trained more than 50 rice and vegetable cultivators on crop establishment using drum seeder, off-season vegetable cultivation and nutrient management using the leaf color chart.

Close to seven of 10 of their trainees adopted these technologies.

Currimao farmers have also hosted more than 200 field visits of researchers, farmers and extension workers.

"Our work is challenging, yet satisfying. We showcase technologies in our farms and establish learning fields where any farmer can observe the difference between traditional and recommended farming practices," they said.

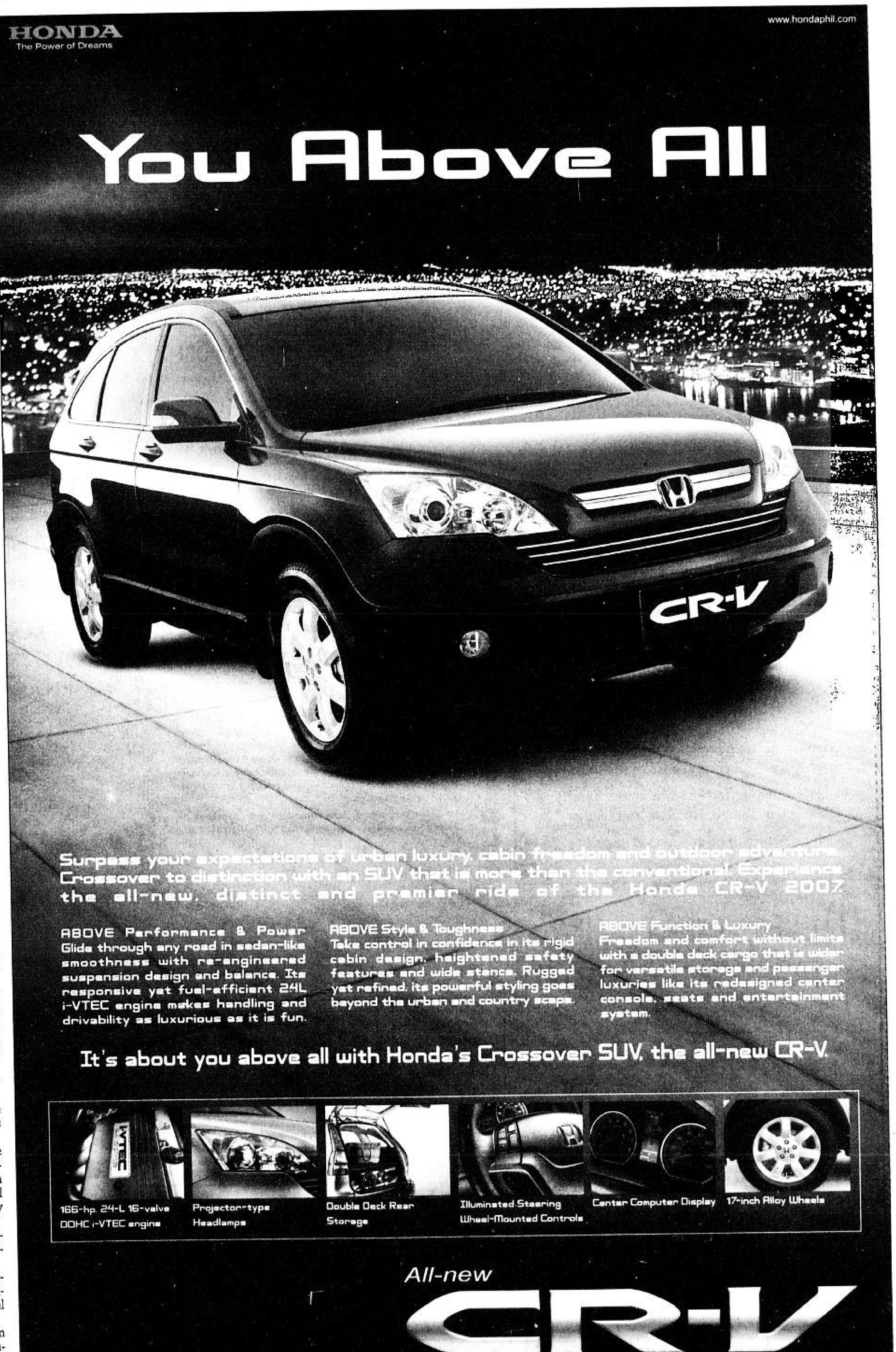
Their testimonies have also become benchmarks in the high adoption rate of PhilRice-developed technologies.

Meanwhile, NFA's Ifad program has allowed farmers to be given rice import allocations, which they would resell to various local markets.

NFA administrator Jessup P. Navarro said in a statement that only those farmers' organizations and cooperatives accredited with the NFA, as well as holders of the NFA master passbook, are qualified to participate in this program.

To date, the NFA has accredited 18 farmers' organizations from Occidental Mindoro for its Ifad.

These groups recently sold 57,141 bags of their imported rice allocation to a number of markets, generating some P3 million in the process.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All the pain and grief is over
Every restless tossing passed;
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Safely home in Heaven at last.

Our Dearly Beloved

PABLO FLORENTINO NOLASCO, M.D.

"Pabling"

(January 25, 1922 - June 26, 2007)

of Vigan, Ilocos Sur and St. Ignatius Village, Q.C.
Class of 1953, UST College of Medicine
Former Chief of Clinics, Quirino Memorial Medical Center

peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 85.

His loving children **Ronnie** and **Cora**, **Joji** and **Ray Macatangay**, **Eddie** and **Bebot**; grandchildren **Joey**, **Eric**, **Joanna** and **Melissa**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His mortal remains lie in state at the Community Chapel of St. Ignatius Village, Quezon City.

Holy Mass will be celebrated at Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Katipunan Road, Project 4, Quezon City on June 29, 2007, Friday at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow immediately at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

The Family of
AMBASSADOR MANUEL T. YAN
wishes to inform all relatives and friends of the late

LEO ACAB YAN

who joined his Creator on June 26, 2007 at the age of 52,
that his remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose Greenhills,
city of San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 30, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque, Metro Manila after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Santuario de San Jose Greenhills.

CIPRIANO "Tata Efren" MIRAS POBLETE

peacefully joined his Creator
on June 23, 2007 at the age of 68.

His bereaved wife **Luz**, daughters **Helen** and **Pamela**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #71 Tungohin, Infanta, Quezon.

Interment will be on June 30, 2007 at 2 PM.

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PILAR PENABELLA-VYTIACO

peacefully joined her Creator on June 26, 2007, Tuesday,
at her residence in Antipolo City, Rizal at the age of 83.

Her bereaved husband **Engr. Geronimo Eusebio Vytiaco**

Children: **Ma. Cristina** (USA), **Estrellita** (Canada), **Emilio** (Australia)

Parents: **Domingo Penabella** (†) & **Socorro Franco** (†)

In Laws: **Bayani Sosa, Godofredo Lorenzo, Corazon Sailago, Slava, Karl, Lisa**

Brother **Emilio** (†), Sister **Pacita Caguiat** (†)

Grandchildren: **Corito, Jonas, Chris** (USA)
Junjie, Honey, Monchit, Pinky (Canada)
Jerome (Australia)

Great-grandchildren: **Brandon, Harland, Makayla, Shelby, Katlyn** (Canada)

Nephews, nieces, other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Rizal Funeral Homes, Inc. on Libertad St., Pasay City.

After the Mass at Bethany Chapel, Rizal Funeral Homes Inc. on June 30 at 9:30 a.m., she will be cremated at Holy Trinity Crematory, Parañaque at 2 p.m. Ashes will be interred at San Isidro Church, Taft Avenue, Pasay City.

Our Dearly Beloved

AMANDA POBLETE CAPARAS

of Kamuning, Quezon City and Naic, Cavite

peacefully joined our Lord and her husband
***Eufemio P. Caparas, Sr.** on June 26, 2007 at the age of 85.*

Her loving children **Eufemio Jr.**, **Jose Leo**, **Delfin**, **Marilyn**, **Jocelyn**, **Evelyn**, **Ma. Rosario** and **Ma. Amanda**; children-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at **Faith Chapel of Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc.**, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 1, 2007 at **Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City** after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington Chapel.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

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JUAN A. VILLANUEVA, JR.

of Botolan, Zambales

joined his Creator on June 26, 2007
at the age of 53.

His children, grandchildren, parents, brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Tampo, Botolan, Zambales.

Interment will be announced later.

DIMPNA ACOSTA SERRANO ARCANGEL

of San Nicolas & Batac, Ilocos Norte

peacefully joined our Creator
on June 26, 2007 at the age of 89.

Her loving husband **Atty. Agustin Ag. Arcangel**; children and children-in-law **Renee & Romy Macaraeg** (†), **Imelda**, **Tonito & Doris**, **Pacito & Lita**, **Eliz & Ganie Avila**, **Danny & Nancy**, **Femodin & Nice**; grandchildren, brother **Carmelo**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Peter Chapels at 296 Quezon Ave. cor. Roces Avenue and will be transferred to Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Interment will be at San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte. Date & time to be annnounced later.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..." Psalm 23:4

RITA "MAMATA" P. ENCINAS

of Tabaco City, Albay and Tanauan, Batangas

Birth : 16 April 1920
Death : 27 June 2007

In loving memory of...

Spouse: Asterio Yap Encinas (†)

and children...
Sally Encinas, Manuel (†) and Pat Encinas,
Minda and Johnny Jonsay, Emma and George Steele,
Lorna and Larry (†) Basical, Estela and Alil Tronqued
and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at La Storta Chapel, Loyola Chapels, Sucat. Interment will be announced later.

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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
ANTONIETA L. ARAGON	Chapel-10	June 30, 2007, 8:00 AM	Paz Crematory
AVELINO PATDU	Chapel-D	to be announced later	Paradise Memorial Park, Mandaluyong City

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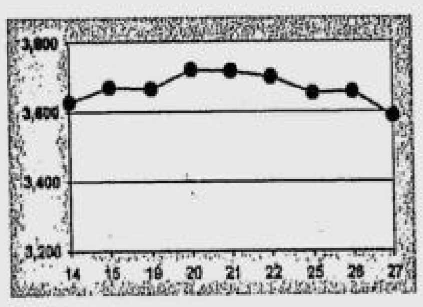
Stocks close at 2-week low on interest rate fears

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.91-PERcent down yesterday, with the key index hitting its lowest level in two weeks as investors took profits ahead of the US Federal Reserve's meeting on interest rates, dealers said.

The composite index ended down 69.91 points at 3,587.21. It moved between 3,578.31 and 3,655.60. Volume traded reached 7.27 billion shares worth P5.56 billion.

There were 139 decliners and 14 advancers, while 23 stocks were unchanged.

The US central bank is widely expected to keep its benchmark Fed funds rate steady at 5.25 percent, but it is the Fed's accompanying statement on inflation and the health of the US economy that financial markets are keenly awaiting.



Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings said the retreat reflected the fact that the Philippine market "remains sensitive to developments in the US."

"But it's also a healthy breather for us after the recent sharp run-up," he added.

He said market appetite was also dented by concerns about the government's fiscal performance after it missed its tax collection target for the first five months of the year.

At a news briefing Wednesday, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government remained committed to a balanced budget by 2008 despite the poor tax collection performance in the five months to May.

Del Castillo sees the next support level for the main index at 3,550 points.

Ayala Land, the most actively traded stock, was down 50 centavos at P17.50.

Shares in Ayala Land's parent, Ayala Corp., retreated P10 to P545.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. or PLDT, the biggest listed Philippine company in terms of market capitalization, fell P50 to P2,620.

San Miguel "A" shares fell P3 to P72 while the "B" shares ended a peso lower at P80.

AFP

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 27, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS							
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.75	11.75	221,800
71.5	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	69	69	66.5	66.5	942,000
73.5	45.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	70.5	70.5	67.5	68	2,381,700
935	630	China Banking Corp.	900	900	900	900	1,000
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20	20	20	20	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.57	0.57	0.54	0.54	8,110,000
75.5	30.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	69	70	67.5	67.5	2,678,400
65	32.5	Philippine National Bank	60.5	60.5	59	60	270,600
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	2,900
72	40	Philippine Bank of Communications	51	51	51	51	4,000
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	34.5	34.5	33	33	1,833,400
90	41.5	Security Bank Corp.	82	82	82	82	34,000
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	62.5	62.5	61.5	62	396,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS							
5	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.5	5	4	4.65	1,997,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.24	1.24	1,231,000
14.25	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	13.75	14.25	10.5	11.75	9,518,200
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.36	1.4	4,493,000
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,660.00	1,670.00	1,660.00	1,670.00	1,420
5	4.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.35	9,109,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.85	760,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	805	810	800	810	4,670
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,140.00	2,150.00	2,140.00	2,150.00	1,120
1.94	1.2	iVantage Corp.	1.76	1.78	1.72	1.74	1,410,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER							
67.5	41	First Gen Corp.	66	66.5	66	66.5	2,278,800
88	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	86.5	86.5	85	85.5	371,400
12.75	7	Manila Water Co. Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.75	7,869,000
108	14	Manila Electric Co. "A"	104	104	100	102	362,360
109	20.5	Manila Electric Co. "B"	104	105	100	102	1,222,480
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.2	15,096,000
5.8	3.5	Petron Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.4	6,505,000
2.5	1.6	Salcon Power Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	24,000
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.48	1.48	1,449,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO							
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	214,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.42	2.46	2.34	2.38	4,509,000
2.75	1.24	CADP Group Corp.	2	2	2	2	9,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	37,200
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54	54.5	53.5	54	409,600
7	4.6	Pancake House Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	38,000
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.6	417,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.55	2.75	2.55	2.6	1,705,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	74.5	74.5	72	72	264,300
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	81	81	79.5	80	1,265,700
0.61	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	610,000
4.3	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	4,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	18.5	18.5	18	18.5	3,217,100
CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES							
5.8	1.27	EEI Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.3	3,195,000
4.6	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.15	392,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.1	8.2	7.5	8	260,000
7	1.2	Republic Cement Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	72,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	9,400,000
CHEMICALS							
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.6	2,156,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.24	1.24	832,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS							
0.44	0.06	Picop Resources Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.35	0.36	47,000,000
HOLDING FIRMS							
3.9	1.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.65	103,000
0.17	0.022	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.14	0.15	179,820,000
1.28	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.04	1.08	57,388,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.8	2.9	2.2	2.3	4,589,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.4	125,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	73,400,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	107,500,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.5	10,732,000
0.021	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.018	0.019	0.017	0.018	239,400,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.9	37,854,000
1.38	0.47	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.06	1.06	1,910,000
1.5	0.085	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.02	1.02	760,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.5	2.55	2.34	2.38	5,605,000
5.6	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	33,000
16	5.6	Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc. "B"	10	10	10	10	1,000
590	275	Ayala Corp.	555	555	545	545	476,830
16.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.6	4.6	268,000
5.4	0.99	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.95	29,253,000
9.8	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.5	8.7	1,043,000
2	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	180,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	452,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.9	329,000
14.5	5.5	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12	1,877,400
0.8	0.185	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.52	0.52	1,780,000
0.95	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
30	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	26	26	22.75	23.5	2,145,000
11.5	0.25	Multitech Investments Corp.	9.9	9.9	8.8	9.1	11,539,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.3	3.95	3.95	814,000
0.038	0.009	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.034	0.034	0.031	0.032	73,100,000
1.54	0.8	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.08	1.1	289,000
0.75	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.58	0.59	0.55	0.55	14,550,000
1.92	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	20,000
432.5	200.44	SM Investments Corp.	405	405	395	400	170,040
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.68	1.68	307,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.54	0.55	84,240,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.88	380,000
1.6	0.76	South China Resources Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.4	1.4	150,000
0.75	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.5	0.52	20,400,000
1.1	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	0.88	0.88	1,369,000
PROPERTY							
2.16	0.75	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	101,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.81	0.84	1,170,000
19.25	8.96	Ayala Land Inc.	17.5	17.75	17.25	17.5	26,648,500
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.66	1.66	12,922,000
4.7	1.86	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	47,000
2	1.2	Cebu Prop. Venture and Dev't Corp."A"	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	85,000
0.78	0.25	Crown Equities Inc.	0.72	0.78	0.72	0.74	31,200,000
0.83	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.52	0.55	20,070,000
3.25	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	100,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.84	0.85	46,100,000
0.32	0.031	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.245	0.25	38,780,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.04	1.08	20,417,000
2.44	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.26	2.26	2.12	2.16	74,743,000
3.3	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	40,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. "A"	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	140,000,000
0.016	0.005	Interport Resources Corp. "B"	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	80,100,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.44	0.45	3,970,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.9	0.93	2,989,000
4.4	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	4	4.05	3.95	3.95	57,610,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	245,000
0.7	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.5	0.54	7,620,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.66	0.67	24,480,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	7.1	7.3	6.2	6.2	415,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	20	20	19	19.25	507,900
5.7	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.5	4,687,000
12	5.84	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.75	11	11.25	9,060,000
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	1.1	1.1	0.96	0.99	16,550,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.25	0.26	7,690,000
6.4	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.5	6.4	5.5	6	8,853,000
MEDIA							
34	14	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	32	31	31.5	222,600
1.14	0.98	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	20,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS							
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.56	1.56	4,779,000
1,445.00	900	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,370.00	1,370.00	1,360.00	1,360.00	207,310
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,600.00	2,675.00	2,600.00	2,620.00	92,600
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.8	3,689,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	17,520,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	10.5	10.5	9.8	10.5	158,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp.	7.1	7.1	6.4	6.8	1,416,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.046	0.047	90,200,000
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.2	2.32	2.2	2.32	65,000
0.185	0.04	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.12	0.13	84,160,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.52	1.64	780,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0575	0.06	443,600,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	4.5	4.5	3.9	4.05	6,523,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES							
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	20,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	161,000
32	13.25	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	29	29	28	28.5	8,302,600
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2.1	2	2.08	1,178,000
1.74	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	15,000
HOTEL & LEISURE							
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	1,774,000
5.2	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	1,036,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	4	4	3.9	3.9	16,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Prods. Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.77	0.79	4,010,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.92	0.95	1,430,000
EDUCATION							
966.67	650	Far Eastern University Inc.	850	850	850	850	530
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES							
5.3	1.88	Macroasia Corp.	5	5	4.8	4.95	2,230,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	16.5	16.5	15.25	15.5	1,168,300
30	9.8	Paxys Inc.	24.75	24.75	24.25	24.5	321,000
110	22	Prime Gaming Philippines Inc.	110	110	110	110	800
MINING							
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.014	0.015	670,600,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.7	5.7	5.3	5.3	770,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.6	329,000
21.25	7.3	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	17.25	17.25	16.75	17	1,620,800
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	11.5	11.5	11	11	63,500
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.05	4.05	4	4	269,000
3.05	0.0646	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.55	76,643,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	22,630,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	7,230,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.035	0.035	0.033	0.034	471,700,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.037	0.037	0.035	0.035	329,700,000
0.024	0.008	Omico Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.018	0.019	2,229,200,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.5	20,699,000
29.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	50,400
1.36	0.32	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.1	1.1	1	1.02	2,734,000
1.8	0.5	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.22	1.28	5,708,000
OIL							
0.58	0.24	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.43	0.45	17,410,000
0.025	0.009	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.021	299,300,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	77,300,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10	10	10	31,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.021	0.023	474,400,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

Megaworld donates office space to PCCI

PROPERTY GIANT MEGAWORLD CORP. IS donating 2,000 square meters of prime office space at its 50-hectare McKinley Hill township in Fort Bonifacio as the permanent home of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

As specified in the Memorandum of Agreement signed yesterday, the PCCI will locate its head office at the new McKinley Civic Center in Fort Bonifacio by mid-2009. According to Megaworld, the space is being donated to PCCI for the entire duration of the building's life span.

"Megaworld deemed it best to donate this prime piece of property to PCCI because as the single voice of business here in the country, it definitely needs a permanent home to do its job of stimulating business activity in the best manner. They also needed a site that is very forward-looking and modern, that is why McKinley Hill in Fort Bonifacio is the best site for this nationwide association of entrepreneurs and industrialists," said Megaworld chair and president Andrew Tan.

PCCI president Sammie Lim lauded the donation, saying "it took (the organization) 104 years (to) finally have a permanent home."

Lim said the future permanent home would benefit the PCCI's members. "It's a place to meet. It will definitely attract a lot of our more than 1,200 members to be more active."

"We will have desks for each of our different member associations, regional chapters including those in Mindanao and Visayas. Even our bilateral and international teams will have desks for North America and so forth (in the new office)," Lim said.

Lim said he hoped that the "PCCI can be a magnet to the new business district that Andrew Tan is envisioning (at McKinley Hill). With PCCI's national and international reach, that is certainly doable."

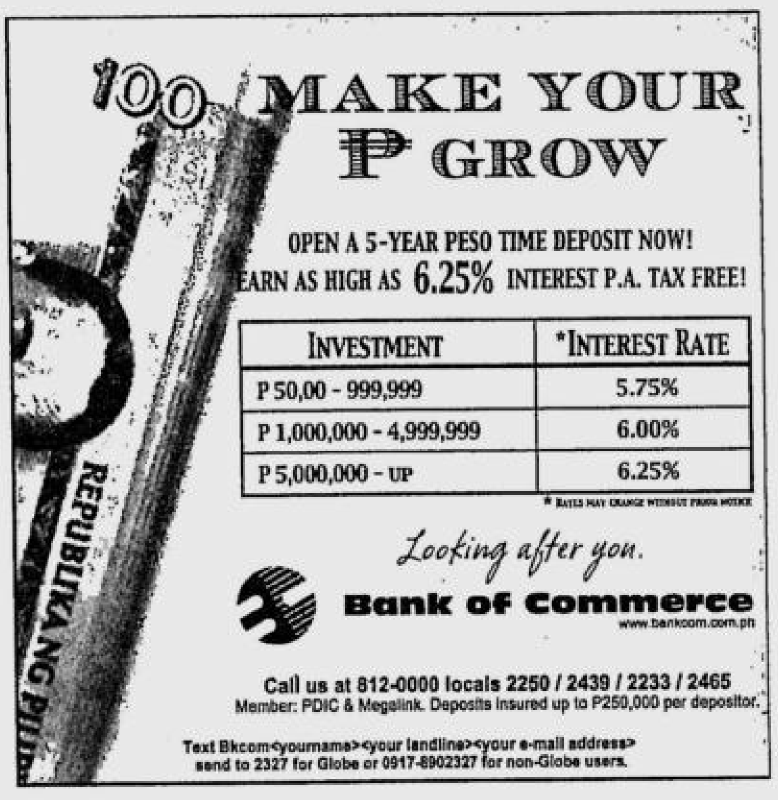
CURRENCIES

June 27, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.742942	1.000000	46.2220
Japan	Yen	0.006031	0.008118	0.3752
United Kingdom	Pound	1.485067	1.998900	92.3932
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095097	0.128000	5.9164
Switzerland	Franc	0.605199	0.814598	37.6523
Canada	Dollar	0.694858	0.935279	43.2305
Singapore	Dollar	0.483026	0.650153	30.0514
Australia	Dollar	0.629505	0.847314	39.1645
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.970877	2.652801	122.6178
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198097	0.266638	12.3245
Brunei	Dollar	0.481461	0.648046	29.9540
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000110	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023290	0.031348	1.4490
UAE	Dirham	0.202282	0.272272	12.5850
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.346000	62.2148
Korea	Won	0.000802	0.001080	0.0499
China	Yuan**	0.097551	0.131304	6.0691
Argentina	Peso	0.240629	0.323887	14.9707
Brazil	Real	0.381270	0.513189	23.7206
Denmark	Kroner	0.134409	0.180914	8.3622
India	Rupee	0.018210	0.024510	1.1329
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213858	0.287853	13.3051
Mexico	New Peso	0.068335	0.091979	4.2515
New Zealand	Dollar	0.569697	0.766812	35.4436
Norway	Kroner	0.124669	0.167805	7.7563
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012264	0.016508	0.7630
South Africa	Rand	0.103431	0.139218	6.4349
Sweden	Kroner	0.107753	0.145035	6.7038
Syria	Pound	0.014312	0.019264	0.8904
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022662	0.030503	1.4099

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—June 26, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of June 26, 2007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Call centers reeling from strong peso

From page B1

dustry's revenues could grow almost threefold to $12.1 billion by 2010 from the end-2006 level of $3.45 billion.

At the end of 2006, call center firms continued to bring in the bulk of revenues from foreign clients, contributing 77 percent of the industry's sales.

In 2010, the BPAP estimated that call center revenues would hit $5.29 billion—still a significant 97-percent growth rate over three years. But by then, that would represent only less than 45 percent of BPO industry revenues.

Taking the place of contact centers as high growth sectors would be back office services, medical transcription and software development, all of which would grow faster in terms of revenues and headcount, according to BPAP data.

Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants
THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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NOTICE OF MEETING
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

To ALL PICPA Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Article XIII, Section 1 and 3 of the By-Laws of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, notice is hereby given that the Annual Membership Meeting will be on Friday, July 20, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Publication of Notice of Meeting
3. Certification as to Presence of Quorum
4. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting - July 21, 2006
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
6. Report of the President
7. Report of the Treasurer
8. New Business
9. Determination of the place of the next annual meeting
10. Adjournment

We urge all members to attend the Annual Membership Meeting. For members who cannot be present in person, please accomplish and return to us the general proxy form. The general proxy form can be downloaded from the PICPA website www.picpa.com.ph or can be obtained from the PICPA National and Chapter Offices.

ARNEL F. DE JESUS
2006-2007 National Secretary

ESTRELLA S. ANDRES
2007-2008 National Secretary

BUSINESS

Investors cite labor concerns

By Michelle V. Remo

INVESTORS ARE BULLISH ON THE PHILIPPINE economy but concerns on the quality of labor remain.

According to Michael Clancy, president of the Philippine Business Leaders Forum, which groups mostly foreign investors, the labor sector is suffering from low productivity.

"One big worry we have is productivity. We have increased economic growth but at a low level of productivity," Clancy said on the sidelines of the group's recent membership meeting.

PBLF is composed of 65 companies, most of which have foreign equity, with around 240 individual members.

Clancy said that while the country could attract more investments because of low interest rates and the improved fiscal condition, the low productivity of the labor force should be addressed.

To improve productivity, there should be additional investments in education and skills training of the labor force, he said.

Clancy stressed that raising labor productivity would help sustain the growth in the Philippine economy.

The economy, as measured by its gross domestic product (GDP), grew by 6.9 percent in the first quarter, the strongest performance in 17 years.

The economic managers attributed the growth partly to the increase in household and government spending, and income from higher exports and investments.

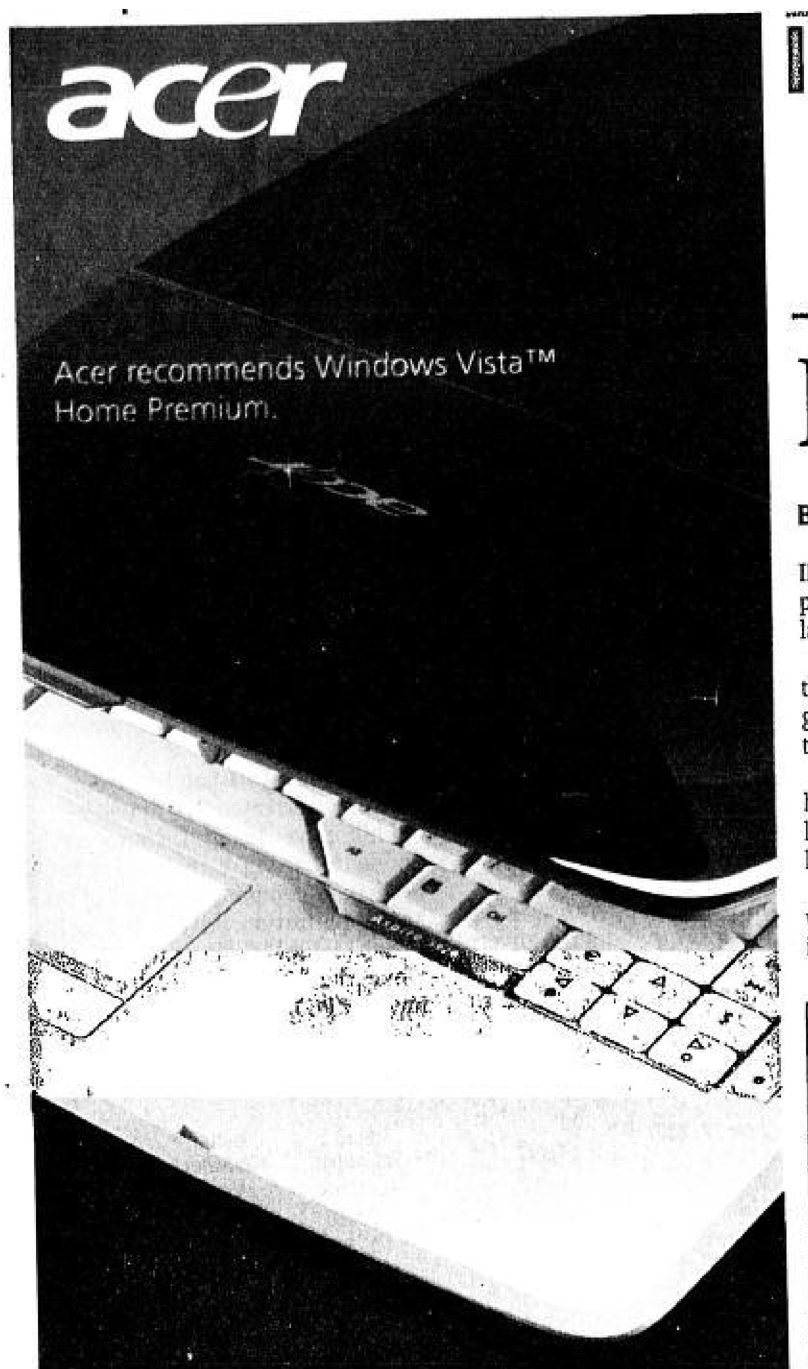
Clancy also said that to sustain growth, it was advisable that the government exert more effort in promoting the Philippines as an investment site.

Although the country has opened itself to foreign investments, Clancy said a lot of potential investments have not come in because some investors do not know enough about the Philippines.

He said the stringent labor law was another problem for investors because it does not give them the flexibility to hire and fire employees.

"Labor law is outdated and businesses are confronted with lack of flexibility in dispute settlement," he said.

acer



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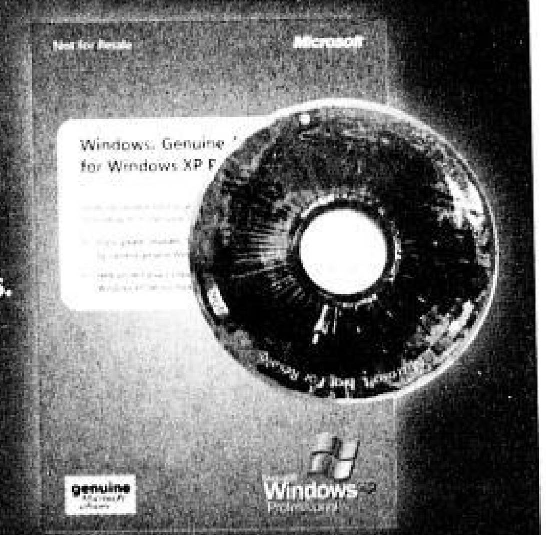

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The Pinoy Genuine Kit or Windows Genuine Advantage Kit is part of Microsoft's ongoing efforts to protect its customers from counterfeit software, and to increase awareness of the value of genuine Microsoft software.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2510, Series of 2007.

IN THIS ISSUE

POPULAR buffet goes Asian/C2

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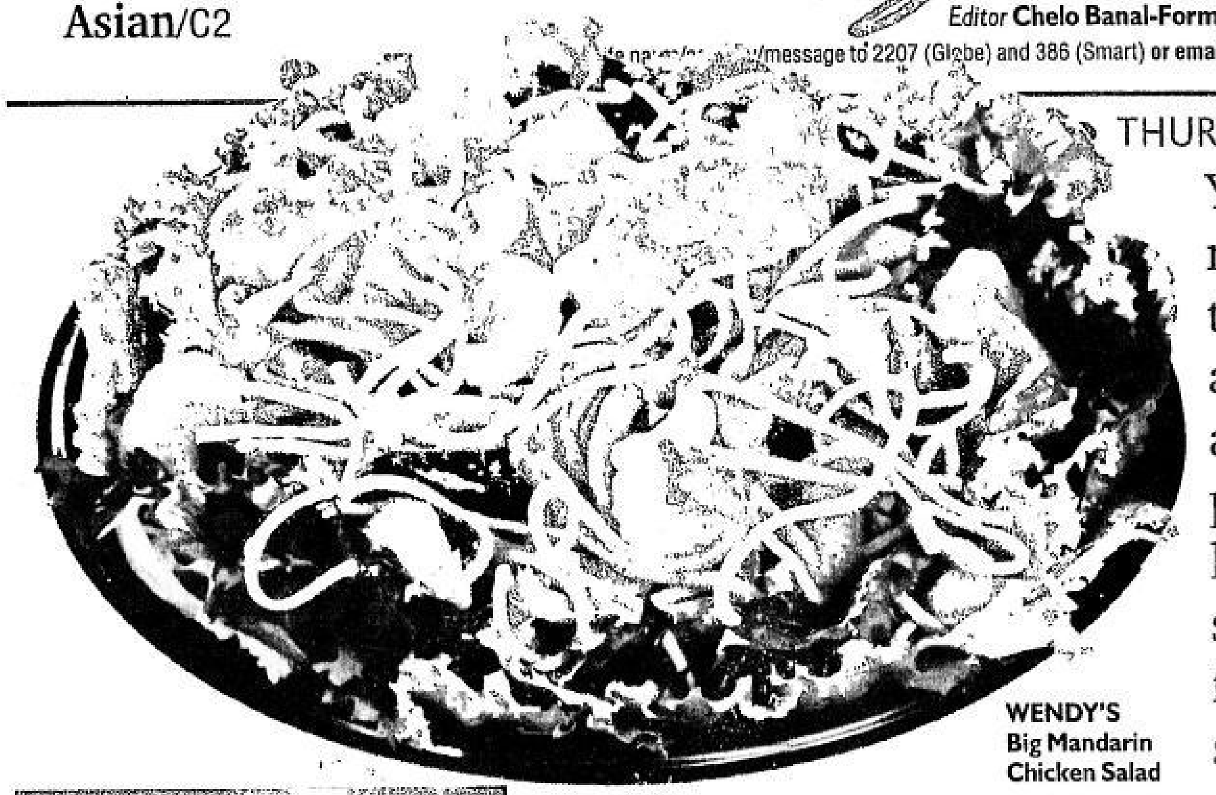

WENDY'S Big Mandarin Chicken Salad

HOTSHOTS' Ultimate Burger with Cheese

You get the right to a trademark and product, and a partner with knowledge, skills and financial strength

The promise of food franchising

CARLO de Guzman, president of Hotshots

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

MORE ENTREPRENEURS are discovering franchising opportunities, thanks to increasing recruitment efforts by companies such as Wendy's and Hotshots.

Franchising, one of the fastest growing segments of Filipino business, is ideal for the aspiring entrepreneur. When you buy a franchise, you not only purchase the right to a trademark and product, you also obtain a partner that has substantial business knowledge and skills and financial strength.

"As a franchisee of Wendy's, you will have the image and likeness of a United States brand, [the way] they trusted us to build their brand here. In a way, it's a marriage; you have to know each other on a personal level. It's a match between people and the organization," says Elizabeth Pardo-Orbeta, president of Wenphil Corporation, which acquired the franchise of Wendy's Hamburgers in 1983. Her family also holds the franchise for the 7-11 chain of convenience stores in the country.

Orbeta is vice president of the Philippine Franchise Association's (PFA) government relations and advocacy. She is also overall chair of the annual Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo.

PFA is internationally recognized by the World Franchise Council and the Asia-Pacific Franchise Confederation. Dedicated to promoting the growth of franchising as a tool for national development and providing a network forum for the Philippine franchising

THE PROMISE/ C3

ELIZABETH Pardo-Orbeta, president of Wenphil Corporation

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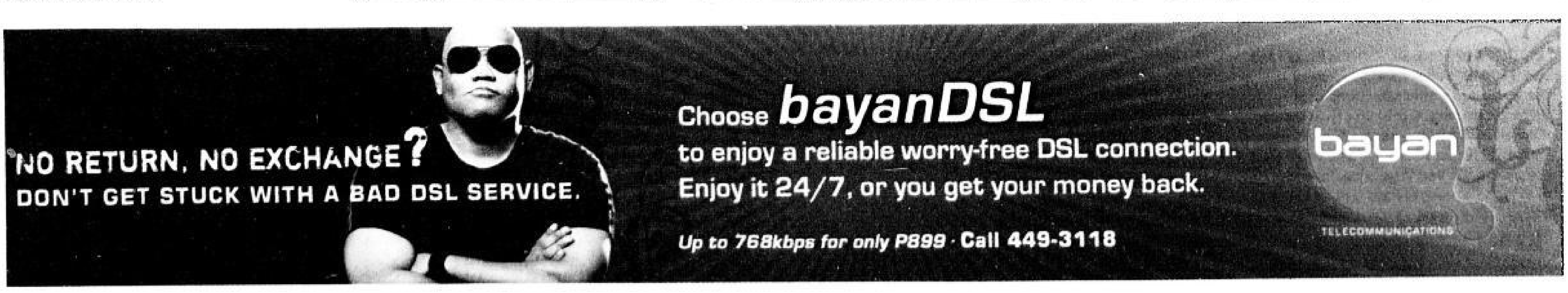

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GOOD mix of Asian dishes: sushi and sashimi, tempura, siomai, Hainanese Chicken, pad thai, chicken *pandan* and catfish with mango salad

All-time buffet favorite adds Asian specialties

The 21-year-old Cabalen gears itself for a bigger, younger clientele

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by August de la Cruz

A NEW MALL AND A NEW MARKET have inspired a new Cabalen restaurant.

Though still serving good old Pampango favorites, the buffet icon now offers a wider selection that includes specialties from other Asian countries.

The famed Kapampangan restaurant has found another home in the more upscale, hipper Trinoma Mall at North Avenue in Quezon City just as it is marking its 21st anniversary. And in gearing itself for a bigger market and trying to attract more young diners, it has adopted a more contemporary look with new logo, signage and even tagline: "Cabalen, all-time buffet favorites since 1986."

Maritel Nievera, who has partnered with good friend Mimi Yabut in the Trinoma branch, said the new slogan came up because Cabalen "is not just an eat-all-you-can place anymore." They have put together the best of Pampango favorites and, for the first time, added popular Asian dishes for a more extensive, refreshing selection."

The Trinoma Mall branch, which opened last month, has been bustling with diners especially on weekends. The 150-seat restaurant, anchored by a picture-perfect buffet bar, is beautifully tiled.

The décor is every bit as inspired as the food—a mix of the old and the new. Orange walls and bright lights give the restaurant a younger, cheerier look while the marble tiles, stylish capiz chandeliers and wall mirrors give the comfortingly Filipino feel typical of every Cabalen branch.

Cabalen Trinoma (tel. 9013602) has done away with the stained-glass windows and antique figurines featured in other branches. But it still has the wooden chairs and tables seen in other outlets.

CHOCOLATE fondue fountain

CABALEN Trinoma partners Maritel Nievera and Mimi Yabut

BUFFET of favorite Pampango appetizers: *chicharon* Gua-Gua, crispy crablets, crispy *kangkong*, *nilasing na hipon*, *tokwa't baboy* and *quilain na* tuna

Gastronomic feast

The buffet table is cleverly set up against glass walls to make movement easier.

It showcases such Pampango dishes as *quilain na* tuna, *bulalo* with *mais*, *chicharon* Gua-Gua, *calamares*, crispy crablets, *nilasing na hipon*, crispy *kangkong*, *tokwa't baboy*, and Cabalen *lumpia*.

Other dishes are *kare-kare*, *asadong dila*, *paksiw na lechon*, *dinuguan*, *begucan (binagoongan)*, *bistig tiyan ng bangus*, *adobong pusit* and *gatang kuhol*.

House specialties include *beringhe*, *tapang kalabaw*, *tocino*, *longganisa*, *morcon*, *rellenong bangus* and *sisig*.

Those who like *ihaw-ihaw* can head straight to the *inihaw* section with its *panga ng* tuna, *pusit*, pork barbecue, salmon belly, *bangus* in *buro't mustasa*.

There's also roasted chicken and the famous Cabalen native *lechon*.

One of the newest offerings is the Cabalen Pritchon. The *lechon* skin and meat are chopped into bite-size pieces and served wrapped in tortilla bread with slivers of cucumber, wansuy and leeks, a là Peking duck. Diners can choose from six different sauces: garlic, hoisin, honey-mustard, tamarind, liver and sweet-chili.

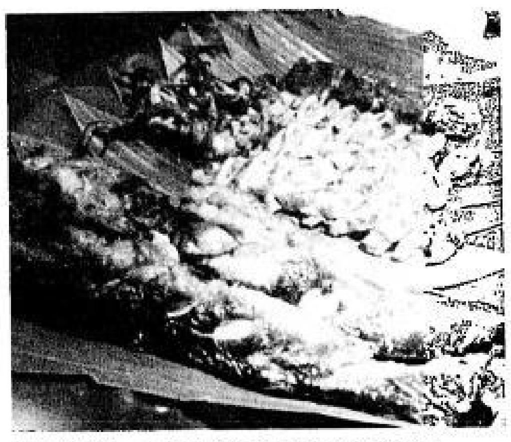
Lovers of other Asian cuisine can now enjoy California maki, futo maki, tuna temaki, tuna sashimi, tonkatsu, shrimp tempura or vegetable tempura with their Kapampangan favorites. Also included in the buffet are Thai chicken pandan, pad thai and catfish with mango salad; and siomai and Hainanese chicken.

The dessert table also offers a wide selection for people with sweet tooth—*sampelot (guinataan)* with *ube*, *minatamis na saguin* with *sago*, *biko*, *bibingka* and *tibok mais*. The *halo-halo* bar offers a dozen sweet fillings. Dirty ice cream may be added to the *halo-halo* or enjoyed on its own.

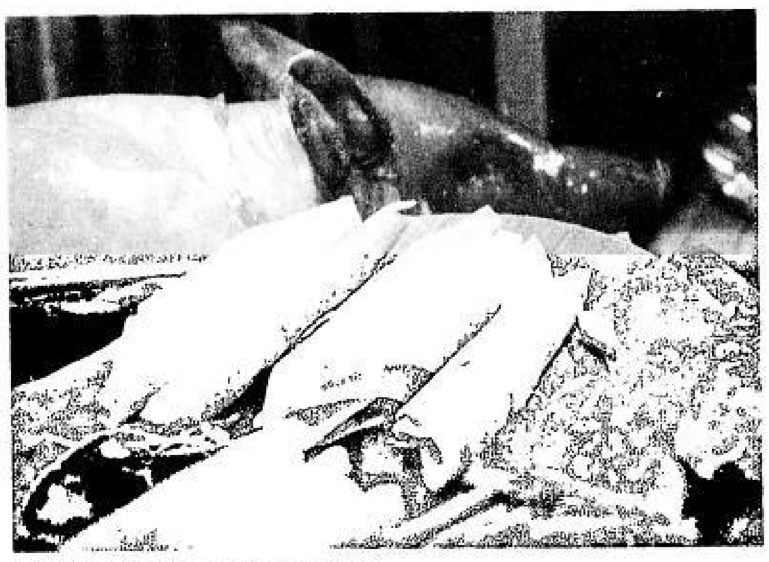
The newest dessert addition that has been big with the kids is the chocolate fondue fountain. Diners can dip sliced fruits and marshmallows in the flowing melted chocolate.

Nievera and Yabut make sure the restaurant serves new dishes every month, if not every week, and try to respond to client requests.

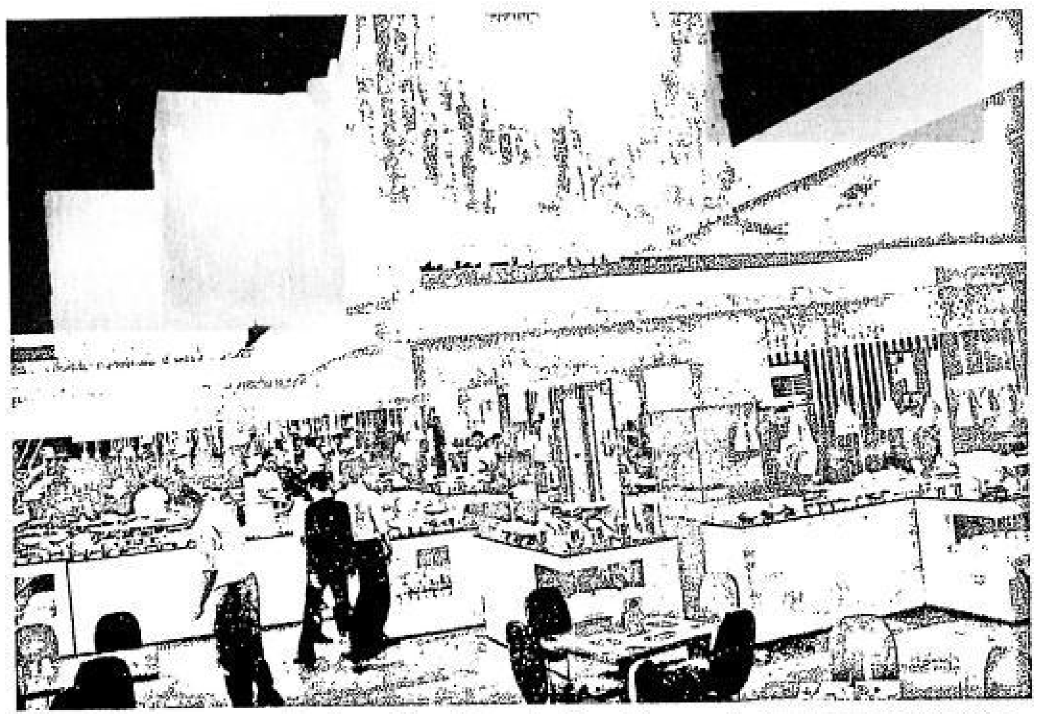
Cabalen is also available for catering (9135522 and 4219220). Other Cabalen Restaurants are on West Avenue, Quezon City; 4/F SM Megamall Bldg. B; Glorietta 3 Ayala Center, Makati; 2/F Robinson's Place Manila, Ermita; ground level Robinsons Starmills Pampanga; 2/F SM City North Edsa QC, Manila; Ground level Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta; ground level SM City Clark and 3/F Chefs Avenue Festival Mall Alabang.



INIHAW favorites: *hito*, *pusit* and *tilapia*



CABALEN'S take on the pritchon



MORE modern-looking Cabalen with stylish capiz chandeliers, wall mirrors and marble tiles

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DINING OUT

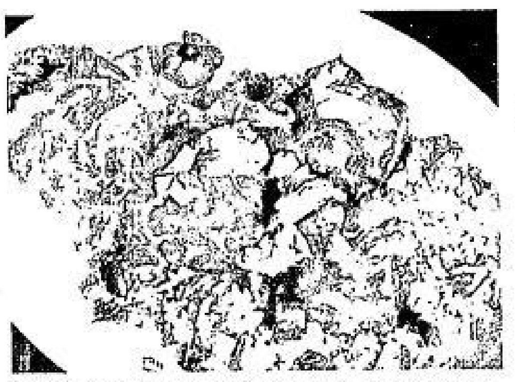
COCORAMA (6/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, tel. 9100401) offers a wide array of pancake and waffle selections with different flavors. Other favorites include Chiquito, Big Island Jumbo Taco, Burger Steak, Hawaiian Summer Slammer, Island Escapade, Grilled Vegetable Torpedo, Smoked Salmon, El Paso Grilled Chicken Wrap, Teriyaki Ribs Platter and the US Angus Tapa Plate.

Anniversary discount

MEZZE Bistro and Bar has reopened after a week-long renovation. As the reopening coincides with its second anniversary, Mezze is offering a 10-percent discount on meals. The renovated Mezze Bistro and Bar has a new enclosed smoking lounge and function room on the mezzanine. Mezze (tel. 7288895) serves *tapas, petits plats* and *cichettis* from France, Spain, Italy, Greece and Turkey in its small-plate dining style. It is open 11 a.m.-1 a.m.

PALOMA, a modern Spanish bistro (6/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, tel. 9104096) offers Graze on Ostrich Salpicao, Cheese Triangles and Braised Quails. Other must-try dishes include Cochinillo Frito with White Cheese, Rabo de Buey (sautéed noodles in oxtail stew), Jamon Serrano, Bacalao a la Vizcaina on rice pilaf, and Salpicao and Grilled Freshwater Prawns Duet. House favorites include Paella Flamenco and Paella Paloma.

GOLDEN HARBOUR Seafood Restaurant that specializes in authentic Hong Kong seafood dishes has opened at 138 West Avenue, near North Edsa, Quezon City. The place can hold more than 200 guests, with the main dining area capable of seating 80 guests. Among the specialties of the Hong Kong chef are a variety of seafood dishes, dimsum, noodle soup, rice toppings, as well as beef, pork, chicken, roasts and vegetable dishes. To celebrate its opening, the restaurant offers a 20-percent discount for dine-in and cash purchases until June 30.



CAFÉ ADRIATICO'S Adobo ni Lola Ising has the traditional flavor of the Filipino dish. The dish uses tender pork meat, which is marinated in soy sauce and vinegar, then fried. The mixture is then sautéed with chopped garlic and ground pepper. Adobo ni Lola Ising is served with white rice and *atsara*. Café Adriatico (tel. 4219647, text 0917-8EWCITY), part of a family-owned chain of restaurants, is open for lunch and dinner. The Eastwood branch is at Fuente Circle, Eastwood Citywalk 1, Libis, QC.

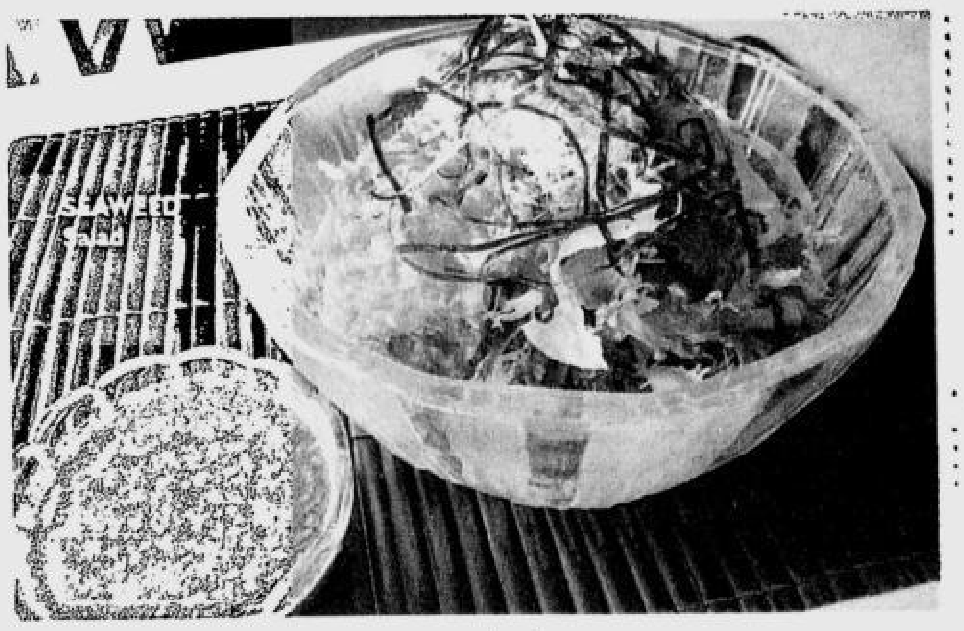
HEAVEN N' EGGS opens in Trinoma. The restaurant is known for its pancakes, French toasts, waffles and wraps. It also offers US Top Blade Steak with eggs, US Rib Fingers with eggs, Country-fried Steak, Grilled Pork Chops, Tuna Steak, among others. Must-try dishes include Pinoy Nachos Sequel, Joey's Buffalo Wings Madness, Buffalo Shrimps, The Seafood Basket and Calamari Fritos.

RAI RAI KEN Ramen House and Sushi Bar offers authentic Japanese food like Garlic-Chili Ramen and Seafoods Hot Pot Ramen. Its Sushi Bar features tuna and salmon. The Rairaiken Bento is so big and filling that it's meant for sharing. Saver Bento, on the other hand, is a complete meal of rice, teriyaki, tempura and soup.

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

Weeding out what is healthy



JULIAN IS A VEGAN WANTING TO research on his diet further.

"I know seaweeds are beneficial and would like to know more. Can you share your knowledge on the subject and do you have a recipe for a nice salad?"

The Japanese have ingested seaweeds for centuries and have made them a part of their regular diet. Perhaps this is why the Japanese rank among the top in longevity.

Weeds, from the sea that is, not marijuana (kidding!), are heralded as the New Age leafy greens. Some people say, since much of the environment's been affected by improper farming techniques, the soil has much less to give while most of the seas have remained pristine making them ideal for growing produce.

The seaweed is reputed to be a "detoxifier, healing agent, [with] preventive properties against breast and other forms of cancer. By promoting thyroid activity, it aids in weight loss. It also boosts the immune system, decreases blood sugar and cholesterol, increases gastro-intestinal tract function, and decreases the symptoms of arthritis joint pains."

Some of the most popular varieties are:

Arame—The mildest tasting of all sea vegetables, it is rich in dietary fiber, low in carbohydrates and sodium, and is a valuable source of vitamins and minerals. For salads or may be sauteed

Kombu (kelp)—It can be used as vegetable with rice. Powdered *kombu* can be used in sauces and soups. It may also be used like curry. Some varieties are used to make an infusion similar to tea.

Wakame—Also a kelp, it is used in making soup and can be used with boiled rice.

Nori—It refers to various species of red algae and is most popularly used for sushi..

Today, many countries in Asia cultivate seaweeds for fertilizers but mostly for culinary purposes.

Even in Europe, at Madrid Fusion, seaweed vendors flourish, selling them in fresh, frozen, dried and powdered forms for various applications such as main ingredient (in salads), for garnish, flavoring and seasoning.

In pill form

For those who do not like their taste—I know someone who says they are *lasang bangka*. Don't know how he ever got to taste a *bangka*—they are available as supplement pills.

"They contain many vitamins and trace elements needed to stay healthy. Beneficial nutrients in seaweed include organic (photosynthetic) vitamins, trace minerals, lipids, plant sterols, amino acids, omega-3 and omega-6, anti-oxidants, growth hormones, polyphenols, and flavenoids.

"They also contain Fucoidan, Laminarin and Alginate compounds. Studies suggest that these are antibiotic and antiviral. Land plants do not contain these photochemicals."

Locally, one of the best and freshest tasting seaweed concoctions that I truly love is Tsukiji' s Kaiso Salad. Indeed a must-try. The crunch, flavors, textures, colors all contribute to making this salad a happy, healthy, nutritious eat!

But of course, when you are there, you must eat the salad with Wagyu. The mighty seaweed should take care of the sinful Wagyu. Call 8434285 or 8122913.

Source: Seaweed Nutrition

Seaweed Salad

Here's a recipe from chef J. Gamboa for Seaweed Salad. Seaweeds are available at Sakura Japanese Grocery on Pasay Road. Get them at the frozen section. You may also get seaweeds in the market.

10 g each of the seaweeds *aka-tosaka-nori, ao-tosaka-nori, ao-ogo-nori, wakame*

If seaweed is salty, soak in cold water for 20-30 minutes to eliminate saltiness and drain. Cut into bite-size pieces.

Dressing:

4 tbsp white sesame seeds
4 tbsp vinegar
4 tbsp *dashi* stock
3 tbsp sweet light *miso*
sugar, to taste

Make sesame-vinegar-*miso*. Roast white sesame seeds and grind well in *suribachi* (Japanese grinding bowl). Add sweet light *miso* and grind more. Marinate in vinegar, sugar and *dashi* stock.

Arrange seaweed colorfully. At the center of the plate, put sesame-vinegar-*miso*.

As promised, more cocktail recipes from Monin Syrups. Call 0918-9701766

Vodkatini/Martini

45 ml vodka

15 ml Monin choices: Lychee, Green Apple, Peach, Blueberry, Cherry Blossom, Watermelon or White Chocolate

Pour tube ice into the shaker.

Chill the martini glass inside the ice bucket.

Put the vodka and syrup in the shaker. Shake and strain to the martini glass.

Garnish relative to color or flavor.

Flavored Beer

1 bottle or can of San Miguel Beer Light, Pale Pilsen, Red Horse, Stallion or even draft beer

1 oz Monin syrup of choice: Caramel, Hazelnut, Peach, Kiwi, Raspberry, Green Apple, Yellow Banana, Irish, Rose, Blackberry, Passion Fruit, Strawberry or Cherry

Pour a bottle or a can of beer in glass. Add the desired Monin flavor. Stir and serve.

My class schedules for July-August are out. Call 9289296 or 9273008.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

Healthy choice for kids' 'baon'

MODERN MOMS FACE CHALLENGES their mothers never had.

While their moms were full-time parents, today's women often have responsibilities at home and in the office. So they have to make every minute count.

Consumer companies realize this and have developed convenience food to make life easier for busy moms.

No longer do they have to cook everything for their children's *baon* or snack. They can now simply take stuff off the shelf.

Occasionally, of course, moms still want to make the *merienda* or *baon* themselves, especially if they want to make sure it is healthy.

In making a sandwich that can be a meal in itself, for instance, mothers not only have a choice of healthier bread but also spreads like calcium-rich tuna and protein-rich eggs and ham. Fresh vegetables will provide necessary minerals.

CULINARY consultant Lorraine Timbol prepares her sandwich concoctions to ensure son Enrico eats healthy.

The sandwich can be made even better with Lady's Choice Mayonnaise. Made with fresh 6-day-old eggs and the purest soy bean oil, it is not just tasty but healthy, too.

Culinary expert and mom Lorraine Timbol has found how the addition of a little mayonnaise can make food more interesting to a child.

Timbol said it used to be a challenge to get her son to eat. "I believe most mothers have this problem... especially [if they want their children to have] healthy nutritious meals. The easy way would be to give in to what they like to eat (chocolates, chips, etc.) but... it weakens their immune system, unnecessarily raises their blood-sugar level and destroys their appetite for real food."

She encouraged her son to eat sandwiches that were healthier and came up with "amazing" concoctions. Under her supervision, the *yaya* prepared a different sandwich every day.

Recently, Lady's Choice brought together moms and their kids for a Baon-Bonding Day at The Palms Country Club. Parenting counselor Maribel Dionisio talked about challenges moms face today, identifying eating as one of the major parenting challenges as the audience at the Strikes lounge listened.

Starting a food business

SAN MIGUEL PUREFOODS MY Great Food Club, in partnership with Monterey and Magnolia Chicken Station, is conducting the Business Opportunities Series (BOS) with cooking demonstration classes for entrepreneurs, caterers and hobbyists.

The first BOS classes include Marinades and Sizzlers, June 29; All About Pizza, Aug. 17; and All About Mixed Rice, Sept. 14. Fee is P500. People attending three consecutive classes can take the fourth class for free.

The BOS is also sponsored by Glad Wraps, GE Appliances and Ariston.

Visit www.mygreatfood.com. Call 6322000 or 6719876 locals 2771 and 402.

Cookie house decorating contest

PARENTS AND THEIR KIDS CAN enjoy hours of fun with a Goldilocks Cookie House Decorating Kit. Until June 30, their finished cookie house can win them as much as P20,000 in cash.

Use the Cookie House Decorating Kit to decorate your entry. Submit a photograph of your family's creation along with the official entry form to any Goldilocks outlet.

In addition to the P20,000 cash, the winner also gets a brand new Magic Sing microphone.

A total of P40,000 in cash and gifts will be given away to the top three winners.

The promise of food franchising

From page C1

sector, PFA is composed of 200 members from the food, service and retail businesses.

"Instead of starting your business from scratch, you will run a business with a track record when you buy a franchise," she adds.

Franchisors provide hands-on, one-to-one assistance. "You are in business for yourself but not by yourself," says Carlo de Guzman, co-chair of PFA's program committee and president of Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers.

"We have to strictly monitor the product's quality, that it should be the same in all stores. We have to make sure that all the outlets follow company standards."

De Guzman and his friend John Decena opened Hotshots in 1999. It went into franchising in 2001 with the outlet in Glorietta 2, Makati. Today, the fastfood restaurant has nine branches in Metro Manila, two in Baguio City and five in Jakarta, Indonesia.

But while franchising does provide great opportunities, it does not create miracles, according to Orbeta and De Guzman. One must combine knowledge and resources with entrepreneurial drive and spirit.

"Choose which franchise is suitable for you. You really need to love what you're doing. It's like a child that you have to nurture, so it can later stand on his own," Orbeta says.

"We need a franchisee with the same drive or passion as ours. We don't want someone who will just treat the business as a sideline," De Guzman says.

Franchises are gaining ground on the old independent startup model for companies. Tried-and-true business practices, training and an established brand with years in the market often promise greater chances of success than a new name, product or concept, Orbeta says.

The rate of return on investment is greater, too, De Guzman adds, as franchisees usually receive training, administrative assistance and marketing support from parent companies bent on making every outlet successful.

"The success of a dream is not overnight. It takes a lot of courage and determination to move forward during the growing years. But the asset of the company is the partnership," says Orbeta.

Responsible franchising

Making a company grow the franchising way means espousing the tenets of responsible franchising.

"Quality control is paramount. If you're lending your name, you'll do everything and go to all lengths to protect that name," explains De Guzman.

Getting a franchise is capital-intensive, he adds. For instance, getting a Hotshots franchise would range from P3-P4 million, including equipment, furniture and the two-month training of staff.

"All our stores are inspected at least once a week," De Guzman says.

Orbeta, on the other hand, emphasizes service at every turn. Franchisors and franchisees succeed only if they keep their eye on pleasing the customer.

"Wendy's has been awarded several times for having the best staff training. And every other week, all products in our 38 stores are tested to make sure that our supplies and ingredients are of high quality."

But for De Guzman, the key to success is doing something one really enjoys.

"Go after what you really like, then go find the best of it. Once you find the best, be committed to making it work. Believe in your product. In our case, we serve products that we ourselves would eat."

The PFA's 15th Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo will be held July 2-8 at Dusit Hotel Nikko for the conference, and at World Trade Center for the expo. Call 6870366 to 67; fax 6870365 or 6870635; e-mail pfa@nwave.net.

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Chinese Snacks: July 14 (Sat) 2 - 6 p. m. Siopao, Siomai, Cuapao, Hopia, Puto Pao, w/ Costing & Sales Profit Analysis. P900.
Doughnut: July 21 (Sat) 2 -6 p.m. Plain & Fancy Varieties (Strawberry, Bavarian, Banana, Butterscotch, Chocolate). Bonus: Bicho-Bicho. Includes Costing. P750.
Coffee 101 (Barista Class): July 21 (Sat) 2 - 6 p.m. Coverage: Coffee History, Coffee Process, Trouble shooting, Machine know-how, proper grinding. Techniques to perfect froth. Actual preparation of popular **Traditional Hot Coffee Concoction**: Espresso, Cappuccino, Latte, etc.; **Cold Coffee Concoctions and Spins**. P1,500.
Pizza: July 28 (Sat) 2-6 p.m. Techniques of Preparing Crusts (Thin & Thick Crusts), Sauce & Toppings Portions for each size of Pizza Dough. Actual Preparation of Sicilian, Chicago Style & Deep Pan-Pizza. Includes Costing & Sales Profit Analysis. P900.
Bartending: July 28 (Sat) 2-6 p.m. Basic tools, Classifications of Wine & Spirits, Types of Bar Glasses & Usage, Mixing Serving of Popular Cocktail Drinks including Snacks. P1,500.

CERTIFICATE COURSES FOR ADULTS (Limited enrollment, pre-registration required)

Fundamentals of Bakery Production: July 3-6 / 17-19 & July 31 - Aug. 3 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Basic & commercial baking techniques applicable to the use of various ready mixes, yeast breads, quick breads, pies, cookies & cakes includes theory practice for Commercial Scale Productions with Free Baking Cookbook. P5,000
Cake Decorating: July 5 & 6 / Aug. 2 & 3 (TH-F) 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Fundamentals of cake decorating; coloring, icing (Boiled, Caramel, Chocolate, Sugar, Simple Fondant Icing); Basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flowers including bunching techniques. Individual workshop on icing application & cake designing. Free cake decorating tips. P4,000.
Basic Culinary: July 10-13 / 24-27 (T-F) 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Proper hygiene, sanitation & safety; nutrition & nutritional cooking; proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades, use of herbs & spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing & boning poultry, filleting fish & meat fabrication. With actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, salad, eggs, pasta, seafoods, poultry & meats, dessert including garnishing for plate presentation. P6,000.

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108; or e-mail us at *mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph*

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1.JUL 2 - 6 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC CAKE DECORATING - (P12,000 for whole course)
P4,400 - JUL 2 - 3 - Learn 10 diff kinds of icing flowers, figure piping. Bake & decorate your basket weave cake using boiled icing.
P3,000 - JUL 4 - Bake & decorate your own character birthday cake using star tips, simple borders & icing flowers
P5,000 - JUL 5 - 6 - Wedding cake assembly: Bake & decorate your own 2 tiered wedding cake using fancy borders, scrolls, strings & icing flowers
NEXT SCHED: AUG 6 - 10

2.JUL 9 - 12 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD - (P12,000)
New method on Gumpaste Flowers: Using Mrs. Florendo's Flower Board Marzipan, Ribbon Insertion, Finest String Works, Lace Pieces, New Recipe of Fondant & Chocolate Fondant **NEXT SCHED: AUG 13 - 16**

3.SATURDAYS // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING - (P3,000)

4.JUL 11 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT 2 KINDS - (P5,500)
Using Lace Mats, New Rolling Pin W/ Designs, Swags & Ribbons, Quilting, Regular & Chocolate Fondant. **NEXT SCHED: AUG 15**

5.JUL 13 // 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM - NEW CAKES - (P3,000)
Piña Colada, Tres Leches, Caramel Cake, Chocolate Cherry Cake **NEXT SCHED: AUG 17**

6.JUL 16 - 20 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - (P14,000. For whole course)
P3,000 - JUL 16 - Cakes: plain, mocha, choco, pound cake, sponge cake, moist choco cake.
P3,000 - JUL 17 - Cakes & Roll: malacañang roll, chocolate roll, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake, taisan.
P3,000 - JUL 18 - Breads: pan de sal, dinner rolls, buns, pan de coco, ensaymada, honey bread & raisin bread
P3,000 - JUL 19 - Pies: Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie.
P3,000 - JUL 20 - Pastries & Cookies: cream puff, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, oatmeal cookies, lengua de gato, coconut macaroons
NEXT SCHED: AUG 20 - 24

7.JUL 16 - 20 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH PORCELAIN RECIPE - (P5,500)
(Each set is lesson covered for one day) - a) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-waling, b) Rose, Cattleya, Cymbidium c) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies; d) Open Rose, Hydrangeas, Grapes *"COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS(P11,000) by appointment"* **NEXT SCHED: AUG 20 - 24**

8.JUL 23 - 27 // 8:00AM - 5:30PM - SPECIAL BAKING - (P14,500. For whole course)
Learn to make 25 Kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing & decoration.
P3,150 - JUL 23 - All Sponge Cakes: Nelusko cake, Black Forest cake, Decadence cake, Fan Torte cake, Fruit Torte cake.
P3,150 - JUL 24 - All Chiffon Cakes: Mango cake, Ube cake, Pistachio cake, Rocky Road cake, Coffee Crunch cake.
P3,150 - JUL 25 - All Butter Cakes: Butter Rum cake, Carrot cake, Kahlua cake, Moist Chocolate cake, Special Fruit cake.
P3,150 - JUL 26 - Cheesecakes: Blueberry, Mango, Tiramisu, Cookies & Cream, New York Cheesecake.
P3,150 - JUL 27 - Meringues: Sansrival, Solothurn, Queens Torte, Braso de Mercedez, Pineapple Meringue Pie.
NEXT SCHED: AUG 27 - 31 / FOR SPECIAL SCHEDULE PLS. CALL

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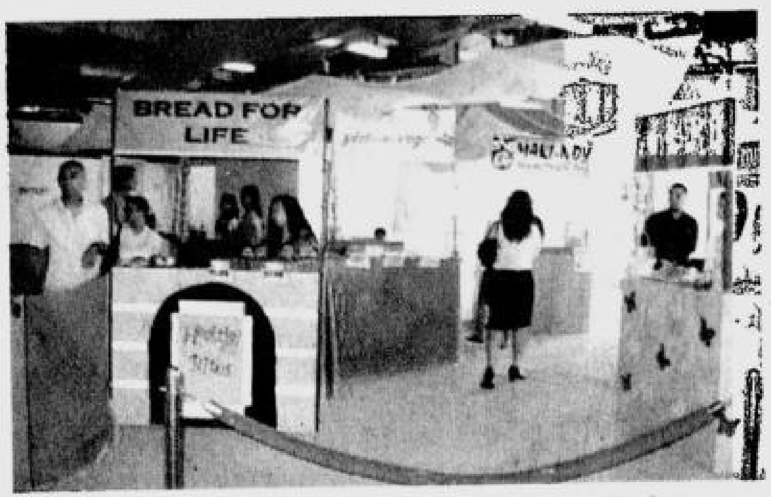
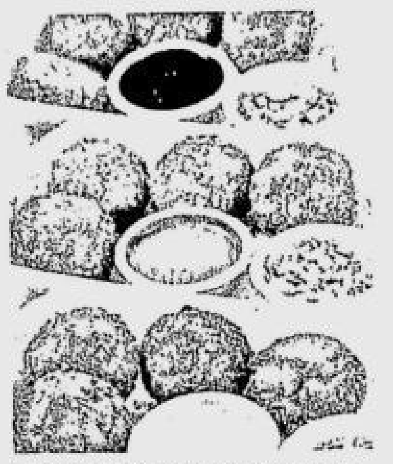


DE LA Salle students sell their "reinventions" of street food at Robinsons Mall Dasmariñas. LINDA B. BOLIDO

GREEN Kwik Kwek has ground pork or chicken.



PEPITAS Dip & Dunk sells saba nuggets topped with nuts or pinipig.

JAPANESE maki filled with Pinoy favorites *longganisa, tocino, tapa* and corned beef

Street food to be desired

By Linda B. Bolido

THEY LOOK FAMILIAR AND YET THEY ARE not.

Budding entrepreneurs from De La Salle University in Dasmariñas, Cavite have taken popular street foods, tweaked them a little and given them new personalities, tastes and, sometimes, even names.

The entrepreneurship students of DLSU-Dasmariñas are showcasing until July 1 their versions of popular street foods at the Robinsons Malls' Entrep Corner at the second level, Expansion Mall area, Robinsons Place Dasmariñas.

Kenneth Roland Garcia, for instance, took fusion cuisine one big step forward with his "maki" variations. His Japanese seaweed roll features ingredients normally associated with the "*silog*" (*sinangag* and *itlog*) combinations.

Instead of raw fish, shrimp, roe or sea urchin, his maki has *tapa, tocino, longganisa* and corned beef with a sliver of *itlog na maalat* thrown in.

Typically, his maki is filled with steamed rice rather than the *sinangag* usually associated with the native delicacies. Wedges of cucumber complete the maki roll.

Quite appropriately, the "invention" is called Maki-noy or "*maki na ginawang Pinoy*."

Reinvented kwik kwek

Two girls decided *kwik kwek* (quail egg covered in batter) and *tok nene* (chicken egg also covered in batter) needed a reinvention. Sajo (for the first syllable of Johanna Reyes and the last syllable of Clarissa Reyes) Kwik Kwek offers pork and chicken *kwik kwek* covered in green, instead of the usual orange, batter.

Vegetarian Lumpiang Shanghai is what La Veggie Loca (Pickavege) is all about. Available so far are Fancy Kangkong, Sassy Potato and Crunchy Cabbage.

Genna Lineses and partner Ria Oarde offers Tangy Mayo-Garlic, Zesty Mayo-Mustard and French Vinaigrette as dips. The bestseller? Fancy Kangkong.

Sol Ti Do are musical notes, of course, but at the Entrep Corner they do not constitute a musical passage but the name of a stall run by Jerome Noveno and Jonald de los Santos selling salted doughnut (that is actually what the name is all about—salty dough).

Bigger than munchkins but smaller than regular doughnuts, Sol Ti Do's products are more akin to the local *bicho-bicho* with egg and cheese, ham and cheese, and corned beef for fillings. They may be sprinkled with barbecue bits or cheese on top.

Other concoctions of the future entrepreneurs are banana nuggets, *turon* filled with fruits other than *langka*, banana bread with nuts and vegetable bits.

Two out of 10 exhibitors opted out of the food "business." One sells *kikay* notepads while the other offers huggable stuff toys that can double as pillows.

Nilo Mapa, Robinsons Malls' general manager, said the chain was glad to give the DLSU students some retail experience through the Entrep Corner.

Though the students said they were happy with the sales so far, DLSU Dasmariñas' Michael E. del Rosario said what the school wanted from the exercise was not so much for the ventures to be financially successful but how much students could learn from them.

He said the students would be evaluated not on the basis of their sales but how they resolved problems and coped with the pressures.

The Robinsons Malls' Entrep Corner was launched in 2005 in Robinsons Galleria. It is a developmental project that aims to provide young (below 20 years old) entrepreneurs the opportunity to be part of an actual retail/shopping mall environment.

> Future entrepreneurs have tweaked popular street foods a little and given them new personalities, tastes and, sometimes, even names

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COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

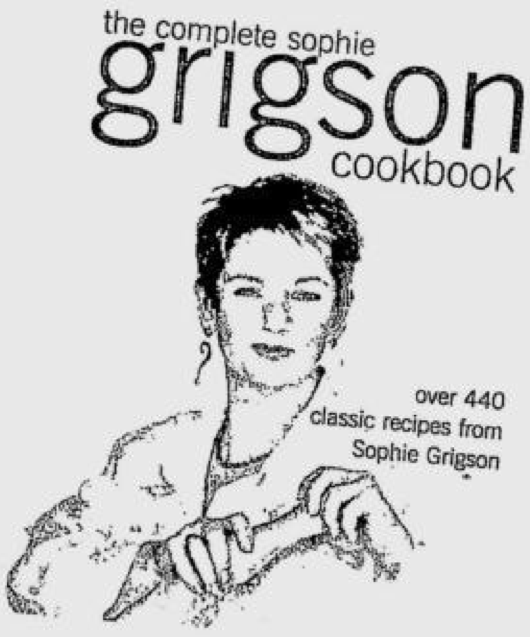
Pinoy cookbook's 'distinguished scholarship' wins award

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THE GOOD NEWS that "Memories of Philippine Kitchens" won the Jane Grigson Award. The book by Amy Besa and Romy Dorotan of Cendrillon restaurant in New York was actually nominated for the Julia Child First Book Award category.

Those awards are given at the International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP) convention held in Chicago. Amy and Romy were disappointed when they did not win the Julia Child Award and thought they had to endure the long ceremony.

But then they heard their book announced as the winner of the Grigson Award for "distinguished scholarship and the quality of its research and presentation."

JANE Grigson, British cookery writer



the complete sophie
grigson
cookbook
over 440 classic recipes from Sophie Grigson

SOPHIE Grigson, Jane's daughter and cookbook author

The Grigson Award was actually the most coveted in that IACP convention. It is not given every year and all judges in every category vote to choose the winner.

Amy wrote that Romy had met the late Grigson and he enjoyed their talk. Grigson was a great English writer of food and cookery. Her best books, according to author Alan Davidson, are "English Food," "Jane Grigson's Fruit Book" and "Jane Grigson's Vegetable Book."

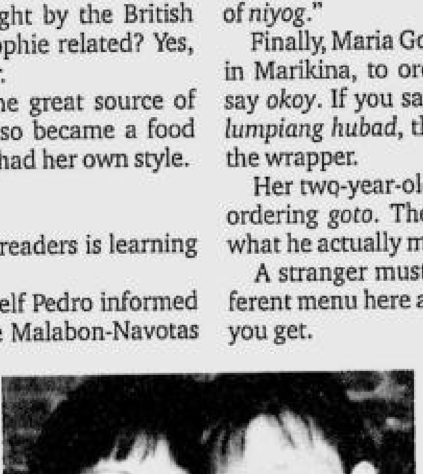
I thought I remembered meeting someone named Grigson here. It turned out to be Sophie Grigson, a guest chef brought by the British Embassy. Were Jane and Sophie related? Yes, Sophie is Grigson's daughter.

Davidson said "it was one great source of joy" to Jane that Sophie also became a food writer though the daughter had her own style.

Dish names redux

The fun in hearing from readers is learning so much from them.

Someone who calls himself Pedro informed us about food names in the Malabon-Navotas area.



AMY Besa and Romy Dorotan, authors of "Memories of Philippine Kitchens"

Pehe there is *talangka* elsewhere. *Talangka* are those small fresh water crabs that are salted and allowed to ferment a bit into *buro* or, as I do it, steamed then opened one by one to remove the fat and mashed into rice flavored with *patis* and *calamansi*.

He also mentioned that *alupihang dagat* was *tatampal* there; *mami* was *langlang*; *ginataang bilo-bilo* was *alpajor*, and *saba turon* was *balensiya*.

Pedro said there must be a lot more but he might not know those anymore because he had lived in the United States for a long time ("*dugay nako 'to sa estets*").

From Pampanga, John Lansang who describes himself as a "semi-retired business man in his senior years," wrote a long letter enumerating dish names and what they were in his home province.

"Our *bulanglang* is what the Tagalogs would call *sinigang sa bayabas*, made with the strong flavor of guava fruits."

His children, however, are not as appreciative of Pampango *bulanglang* because they think it stinks up the whole house. I must confess that I have never been a fan of this *sinigang* version but my husband and one of my sons love it.

According to Lansang, there is another name for the fermented rice, *balo-balo* (*balaw-balaw* or *buro* to Tagalogs) in Pampanga. It is *tagilo*, another new term I learned.

Biko, glutinous rice cooked with sugar or *panocha* and formed like a cake, is *bicu* in his province. But it is given a different touch in his aunt's Sta. Rita home. His Imang Meding's *bicu* "contains *kalabasa*, boiled with the green skin on, mashed, and then combined with the *malagkit*, *gata*, brown sugar and anise plus thin slivers of mature coconut."

He said the "finished product... is made alive with the yellow-orange color of squash and its green skin plus the white chewy slivers of *niyog*."

Finally, Maria Goretti Panis says at a *gotohan* in Marikina, to order *lumpia prito*, you must say *okoy*. If you say *lumpia*, you will be given *lumpiang hubad*, the usual spring roll without the wrapper.

Her two-year-old son joins the confusion by ordering *goto*. The place already knows that what he actually means is spaghetti.

A stranger must think there is a totally different menu here and what you say is not what you get.

Requests

Nona Irwin now residing in Australia says "*matamis na bao*" should be *matamis sa bao*. She is correct that "you cannot make coconut shell (*bao*) into *matamis* (a sweet) but you put the *matamis* in the *bao*."

I replied how my family had called and still call it that way. You know how it is, whatever you grew up with, you accept without question. And so from generation to generation, those names get passed on and you don't know why.

I find it difficult to give recipes as requested because I don't have my own. I have to ask permission from the authors. Also, I have to type them first and sometimes I do not have the time.

But for Rudy Miclat, overseas Filipino worker (OFW) in Saudi, I took the time because he said his wife, who was with him, liked to cook but had no recipes. He felt it would make her busy enough and distract her from missing their children back home.

There are many Filipino cookbooks out there and still more coming, like the Kulinarya cookbook that is still being done. We might lack the distribution to places like Saudi Arabia.

Even in the United States, relatives treasure the cookbooks I bring as *pasalubong*. They tell me that those sold there are too expensive and too limited. Well, we hope book sellers will fill that lack.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04 @yahoo.com

HEAR IT FROM OUR BARKADA

Chefs Darlo Lopez, Rosebud Benitez & Niño Logarta
CCA, Manila Alumni – 2002, 2003, and 2004
Hosts, QTV 11's "Ka-Toque: Lutong Barkada"
Chef Tristan Encarnacion
CCA, Manila Alumnus – 2001
TV chef, GMA's "Unang Hirit" & ABC 5's "Venta5"

In an exclusive interview with TV chefs Rosebud, Darlo, Niño and Tristan, when asked about what CCA, Manila provided them:

Rosebud: "...the best curriculum which I needed to hone my craft..."

Darlo: "...skills and knowledge to start a catering business at age 17..."

Niño: "...discipline to achieve my goal to be a culinarian..."

Tristan: "...opportunities, directions in life, and the heart. The time of my life!"

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Baking-Pastry Arts & Technology Management (1 to 2 years)

For schedules of entrance exams and other details, please call 426-4840 and look for Ms. Agnes Manalaysay or Ms. Jonarry Cruz.

af
Alliance Française de Manille

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde
sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

DID YOU KNOW...

ABC 5 chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco had surgery last week to remove a nodule in his throat, INQUIRER Entertainment learned on Tuesday. A source said Cojuangco was with his mother Meldy when he was admitted to the Manila Doctors Hospital on UN Avenue in Manila. There was no reported sighting of actress Gretchen Barretto.

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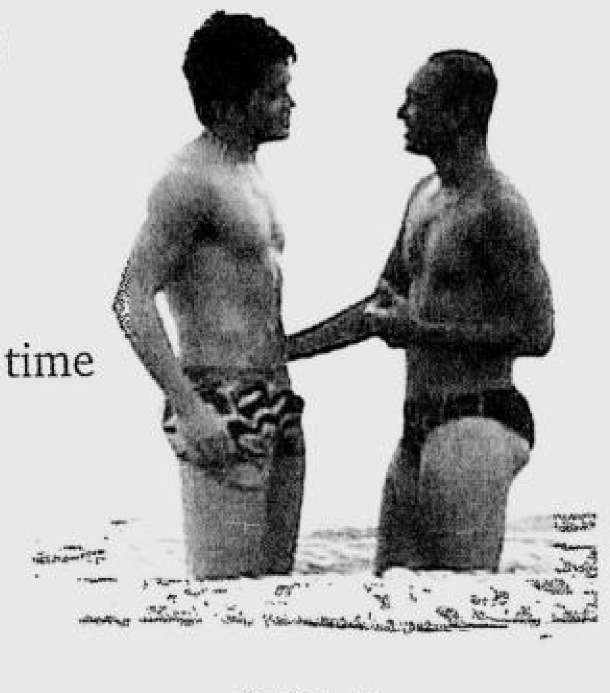
Rated ‘X’

Indie filmmaker at odds with movie-TV board for the third time

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE DIRECTOR OF THE INdependent films "Duda/Doubt" and "Bilog/Circle" is at odds with the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) once again. The board gave his new movie, "Moreno," an "X" rating.


JV ROXAS, left, and Ray-an Dulay star in "Moreno"

Cris Pablo's film about two homosexuals living together was rated "X" or "not fit for public viewing" by a three-member review committee. "Moreno" was set to be screened at the Robinsons Galleria's IndieSine more than a week ago, on June 20.

Pablo had similarly clashed with the board over his first two gay films, which earned rave reviews. Another movie of his, "Metlogs," was an entry in the annual Cinema One festival. Pablo is also a television director ("Emergency" on GMA 7).

In the MTRCB committee report dated June 20, the reviewing committee said "Moreno" violates the board's Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The report explained: "The contemporary community standards would clearly find the theme of the entire work to cater to homosexual prurient interest. All the sub-themes ... were presented from the point of view of homosexual expression."

It continued: "Prurient homosexual expression became a statement of 'empowerment' that became the basis by which other forms of cultural or societal issues should be approached or treated. The attempt to empower tribal women was depicted in a careless, unwise manner that does not give dignity to the tribal community."

In statement e-mailed to INQUIRER Entertainment, Pablo questioned what the report referred to as "contemporary community standards."

"Do we have the same standards?" *O nakaabante na kami at sila ay hindi?*"

"Duda," released in March 2005, was first rated "X" but later given an R-18 rating after its

RATED X/ D2

WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

Top 10 movies at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning June 22

Evan Almighty, Universal Pictures

TW	LW	Title	Gross	WR
1	☆	Evan Almighty	$ 32.1 mln	1
2	☆	1408	$ 20.2 mln	1
3	1	Fantastic Four	$ 20.2 mln	2
4	2	Ocean's Thirteen	$ 11.3 mln	3
5	3	Knocked Up	$ 10.6 mln	4
6	4	Pirates of the Caribbean	$ 7.2 mln	5
7	5	Surf's Up	$ 6.7 mln	3
8	6	Shrek the Third	$ 5.8 mln	6
9	7	Nancy Drew	$ 4.5 mln	2
10	☆	A Mighty Heart	$ 4.0 mln	1

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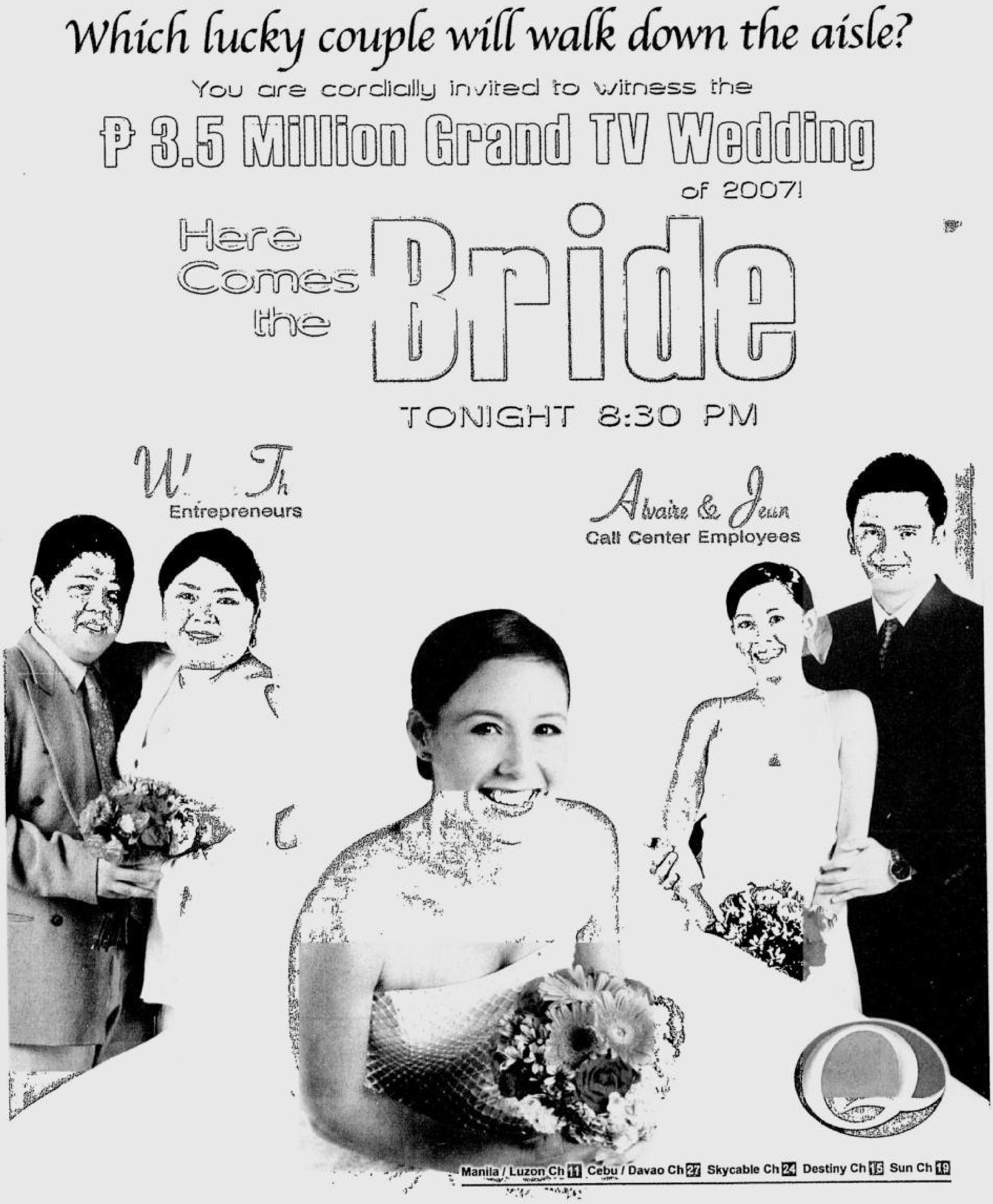
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10 THE INVISIBLE

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6 TRANSFORMERS
7 THE INVISIBLE
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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 BUG
5 KAPE KARMA
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 THE INVISIBLE
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4 WILDERNESS

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3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 ANGELS
5 BORDERTOWN
6 WILDERNESS

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Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FRACTURE
4 WILDERNESS
5 TENACIOUS D
6 TRANSFORMERS

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Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 RESERVE
5 28 WEEKS LATER
6 LETTER to IWO JIMA

ILOILO

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3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 LUCKY YOU
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
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MOVIE GUIDE

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1 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
2 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

starmall

EDSA • SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 TRANSFORMERS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) NEXT
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema

www.clickliberty.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433994

1 CAPE KARMA
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS

THEATRES

[illegible]

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) [illegible]

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 NEXT
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 CAPE KARMA
9 INVISIBLE
10 BUG

Blue Wave MARIKINA

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
2 (DOLBY) BUG
3 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
4 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC 4

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 TRANFORMERS
3 BUG
4 TRANFORMERS
5 CAPE KARMA

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1
2
3
4
PLEASE CALL

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 NEXT
2 TRANFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4443348)

1 TRANFORMERS
2 TRANFORMERS

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 TRANFORMERS
2 WILDERNESS
3 TRANFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ANGELS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 TRANFORMERS
2 TRANFORMERS
3 TRANFORMERS
4 TRANFORMERS

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY / ANGELS
2 TRANFORMERS
3 TRANFORMERS
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
3 TRANSFORMERS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 28 WEEKS LATER
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
4 TRANSFORMERS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR / ANGELS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 TRANSFORMERS

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 EVANGELINE KATORSE
2 BORDERTOWN

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 EVANGELINE KATORSE
3 CAPE KARMA
4 BORDERTOWN

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 EVANGELINE KATORSE
3 FIREHOUSE DOG
4 ANGELS
5 TRANSFORMERS

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 WILDERNESS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 ANGELS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 EVANGELINE KATORSE
2 CHECK INN

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Rated 'X'

From page D1

producers agreed to remove some sensitive clips. In December 2005, the MTRCB rejected the poster design for "Bilog" because "it showed half-naked men."

Pablo argued, "What's wrong if a movie made by a homosexual and deals with homosexual characters has a homosexual point of view?"

He pointed out that "the tribal women are portrayed as complex persons (in the movie). The lead characters (played by young actors Ray-An Dulay and JV Roxas) were supposed to never interfere, just document."

The movie is not about the tribal women, Pablo added, "but about the main character who thought he could manipulate the lives of his subjects as his means to make up for his failures in a previous relationship. He learns that life and people, just like the women he met in the village, are complex. The best thing is to let things be."

Another review was scheduled for "Moreno" last Tuesday, June 26.

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CINEMA 2 TRANSFORMERS 11:10 , 2:00 , 4:50 7:40 , 10:30 GP

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 TRANSFORMERS 10:30 , 1:15 , 4:00 6:45 , 9:30 GP
CINEMA 4 TRANSFORMERS 11:50 , 2:35 , 5:20 8:05 , 10:50 GP
CINEMA 5 TRANSFORMERS 11:10 , 1:55 ,4:40 7:25 , 10:10 GP

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MUSIC MUSEUM

July 7, 2007	Feelin' Las Vegas " Willie Nep "	8:30 PM
August 24 & 25 , 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

June 29 July 06 , 13 , 20 & 27	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
August 8-9 , 15-16 , 22-23 , 29-30	Cerrudo Classico Classic	8:00 PM

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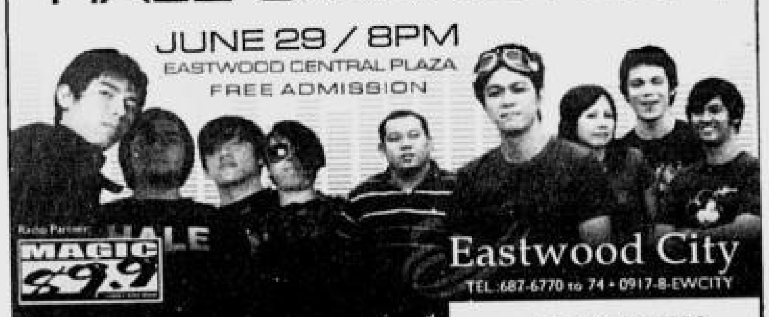

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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

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For inquiries, call:
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GUARANTEED SEATS

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1 TRANSFORMERS 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50 GP
2 TRANSFORMERS 11:40, 2:20, 5:10, 10:50 GP
3 TRANSFORMERS 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20 GP
4 TRANSFORMERS 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20 GP

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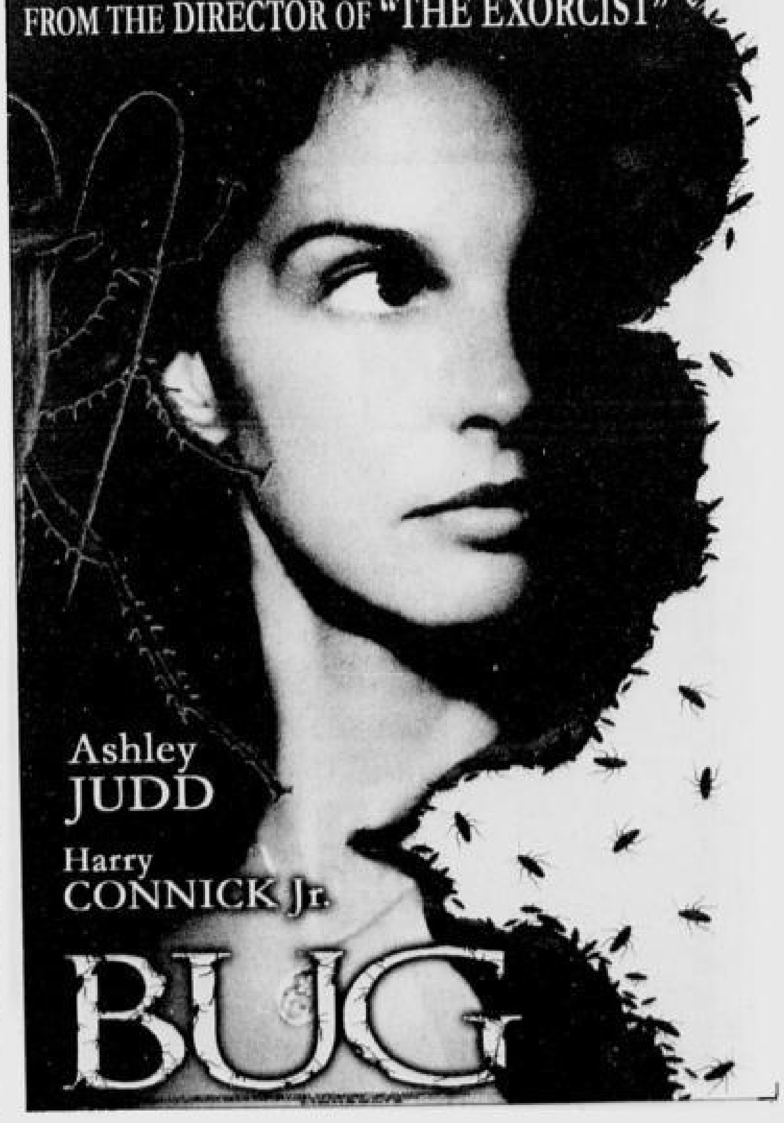
THEY FEED ON YOUR BRAIN



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE EXORCIST"
Ashley JUDD
Harry CONNICK Jr.
BUG

Current box-office figures analyzed

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

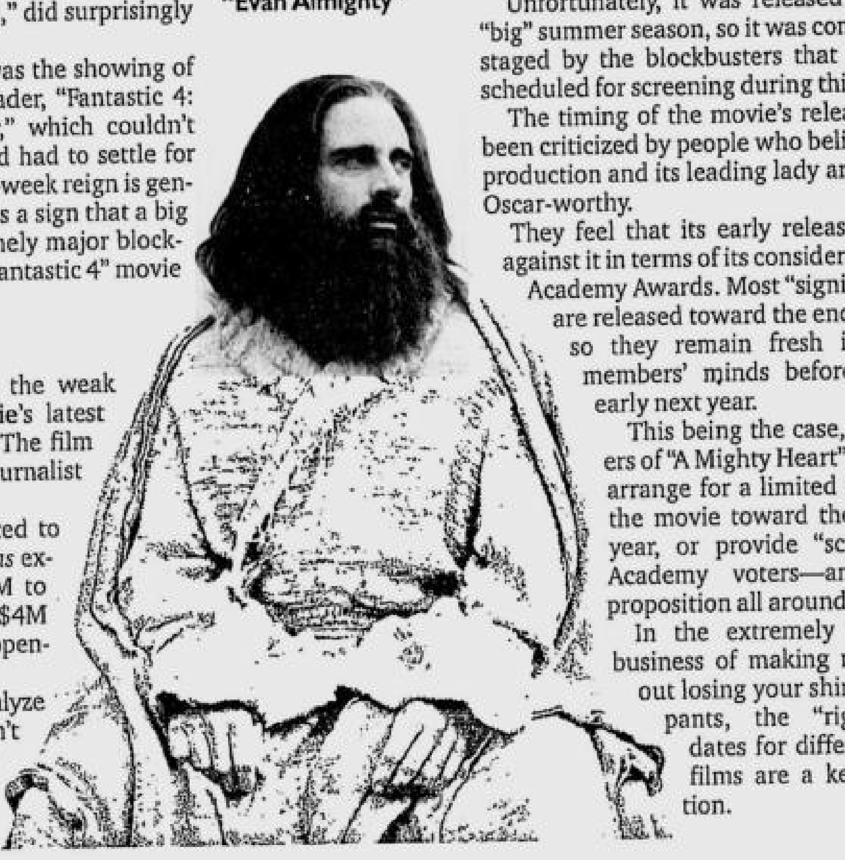
JUST LAST WEEK, HOLLYWOOD INSIDERS were predicting that "Evan Almighty," the new comedy-fantasy movie starring **Steve Carell**, would make boffo business at the box office when it opened a few days ago.

Unfortunately, they must have read their focus group cards wrong, because the film did indeed top the box-office, but with the smallest gross registered during this year's prosperous summer season—$38 million.

This is a big letdown, because "Evan Almighty" is the most expensive comedy movie ever produced, and needed to make at least $50M on its first weekend to break even.

Adding insult to injury was the fact that a much smaller movie, "1408," did surprisingly well at $20M.

Also a disappointment was the showing of the previous weekend's leader, "Fantastic 4: Rise Of The Silver Surfer," which couldn't hold on to the top spot and had to settle for third place. A two- or three-week reign is generally seen by Hollywood as a sign that a big summer release is a genuinely major blockbuster—which the latest "Fantastic 4" movie obviously isn't.



STEVE Carell in "Evan Almighty"

Another letdown

Similarly a letdown is the weak showing of **Angelina Jolie**'s latest starrer, "A Mighty Heart." The film bio of courageous journalist **Daniel Pearl**.

The film wasn't predicted to top the box office, but it *was* expected to make from $5M to $10M. Alas, it did only $4M worth of business on its opening weekend.

After the fact, let's analyze why these movies haven't done as well as expected at the tills. In the case of "Evan Almighty," a problem could have been the fact that it followed up on the *huge* success of "Bruce Almighty," which starred comedy superstar **Jim Carrey**.

Fact is, Carrey was asked to also topbill "Evan," but he declined, explaining that he felt that his character had "already learned all the lessons he needed to learn" in the first film.

Carell has become a popular comic in his own right, but Carrey is admittedly a much bigger draw.

So, the production's problem may have been its backers' decision to spend so much money on it, making it difficult for the movie to turn a profit, especially with its less popular lead star.

As for "A Mighty Heart," Angelina Jolie used all of her considerable stellar clout to push the film and get people to watch it, because she really believed in its significance.

Yes, it was small movie that required viewers to think and get ethnically engaged, but she felt it had a lot of important themes to share with as many viewers as possible.

Released too early

Unfortunately, it was released during the "big" summer season, so it was completely upstaged by the blockbusters that are usually scheduled for screening during this period.

The timing of the movie's release has also been criticized by people who believe that the production and its leading lady are eminently Oscar-worthy.

They feel that its early release will work against it in terms of its consideration for the Academy Awards. Most "significant" films are released toward the end of the year, so they remain fresh in Academy members' minds before they vote early next year.

This being the case, the producers of "A Mighty Heart" may have to arrange for a limited re-release of the movie toward the end of the year, or provide "screeners" for Academy voters—an expensive proposition all around.

In the extremely complicated business of making movies without losing your shirt and underpants, the "right" release dates for different kinds of films are a key consideration.

Top networks get warnings

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION REVIEW AND Classification Board (MTRCB) has issued warnings to broadcasting giants GMA 7 and ABS-CBN Channel 2 for violations committed by their prime-time shows.

In a memo dated June 19, MTRCB chair Marissa Laguardia said complaints were lodged against GMA 7 concerning the June 2 episode of "Hokus Pokus" titled "Feather, Feather Fly Away."

"Said episode [contained] offensive material with sexually oriented and chauvinistic overtones, which may not have been appropriate even for a Parental Guidance (PG) rating," said Laguardia in her memo to Joey Abacan, GMA 7 vice president for Program Management.

Toy insects

Laguardia was referring to the scene where actor Bong Revilla threw toy insects at the chest of a "vehemently protesting" Rufa Mae Quinto.

The MTRCB chief presented two options as penalty: that GMA 7 1) attend a formal hearing on the matter, or 2) submit taped episodes of the program for the next two months.

"We are amenable to [submitting] every episode for two months. [But] we request that we be allowed to ... start with our July 7 episode," Abacan said in his June 21 reply to the MTRCB.

Quinto was also the subject of a recent MTRCB warning for wearing a "skimpy" outfit on the Sunday noontime show "SOP." Laguardia said Quinto's "private parts were slightly shown" while she danced on the May 27 episode. The Kapuso network apologized, saying the infraction "was not deliberate."

Gross

In another memo, addressed to ABS-CBN vice president for Programs Socorro Vidanes, Laguardia said some viewers found the June 11 episode of "Pinoy Big Brother" to be "gross and offensive," specifically the scene where housemate Mickey Perz was bathed in pig's blood.

The special committee tasked to "post-review" the episode said that, because the scene was shown at 10 p.m., "it reduced the possibility that children were watching."

Still, Laguardia said, the producers are requested to refrain from including such scenes."

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 TRANSFORMERS
MTRCB GP
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

2 TRANSFORMERS
MTRCB GP
11:30, 2:20, 5:10

3 FANTASTIC FOUR
MTRCB GP
1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30

4 TRANSFORMERS
MTRCB GP
12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
TRANSFORMERS (GP)
1:00, 3:50, 9:30

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FANTASTIC FOUR: Rise of the Silver Surfer G 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00	TRANSFORMERS G 12:20,3:00,5:40,8:20	TRANSFORMERS G 1:20,4:00,6:40,9:20
TRANSFORMERS G 1:50,4:30,7:10,9:50	BUG R13 1:20,3:35,5:50, 8:05,10:20	TRANSFORMERS G 2:20,5:00,10:20

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11:50 / 12:25 / 1:00 / 1:35
1:55 / 2:30 / 3:05 / 3:40
4:15 / 4:35/ 5:10 / 5:45
6:20 / 6:55 / 7:15 / 7:50
8:45 / 9:00 / 9:35 / 9:55 /10:30

BUG
12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:50

FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER
12:40 / 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00

DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

THE INVISIBLE
12:10 / 2:15

OCEAN'S 13
4:20 / 10:30

NEXT
12:45 / 2:50 / 4:55

Globe PLATINUM CINEMA

TRANSFORMERS
1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00

ALIMALL 5

1 NEXT
12:00 R2 / 1:45 / 3:50 / 5:55 / 8:00

2 TRANSFORMERS
12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00

3 FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER
12:10 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50

4 CAPE KARMA
12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30

5 BUG
12:20 R3 / 1:55 / 4:10 / 6:25 / 8:40

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OPENS JULY 11

SCREENING TIME	JULY 11 WEDNESDAY	JULY 12 THURSDAY	JULY 13 FRIDAY	JULY 14 SATURDAY	JULY 15 SUNDAY	JULY 16 MONDAY	JULY 17 TUESDAY
11:00 AM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	SOLD OUT	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

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METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE
SPIDER-MAN 3 8:00PM
Admission Prices: P 350
T-REX 1:00PM 4:30PM
Admission Prices: P 200
ANT BULLY 2:30PM 6:00PM
Admission Prices: P 250
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 BUG
6 NEXT
PREMIERE CINEMA
OCEAN'S 13
CENTERSTAGE
TRANSFORMERS

THE PODIUM CINEMA
CINEMA 1
TRANSFORMERS
CINEMA 2
TRANSFORMERS
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 INVISIBLES
3 NEXT
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 OCEAN'S 13
9 BUG
10 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 NEXT
8 BUG
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 ANGELS
12 INVISIBLES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 ANGELS
2 INVISIBLES
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 NEXT
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
12 BUG

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 BUG
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 INVISIBLES
7 NEXT
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 ANGELS
10 OCEAN'S 13

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 INVISIBLES
6 NEXT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 BUG
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 NEXT
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 INVISIBLES
8 TRANSFORMERS
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 NEXT
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 NEXT
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 OCEAN'S 13
8 ANGELS
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 BUG
12 INVISIBLES

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FRACTURE
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 NEXT
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 NEXT
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SPORTSTIME

NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS
VENGEANCE

VENGEANCE
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June 29 (Friday)
7:00 p.m.
June 30 (Saturday) • July 1 (Sunday)
11:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
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Cebu, Pampanga, Clark:
P 120 (Guaranteed Seats)
Davao:
P 90 (Guaranteed Seats)
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LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 ANGELS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 NEXT
7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 INVISIBLES

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 ANGELS
6 INVISIBLES

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 ANGELS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 THE SHOOTER

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
5 CONDEMNED
6 ANGELS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 FRACTURE
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 LUCKY YOU
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 LUCKY YOU
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 NEXT

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 FRACTURE
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS

VISAYAS
MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
5 INVISIBLES
6 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 LUCKY YOU
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 28 WEEKS LATER
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 RESERVED
8 BORDERTOWN

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 INVISIBLES
6 CONDEMNED
7 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
8 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

A SURPRISE TEXT FROM TITA NENA (**Amalia Fuentes**) couldn't have come at a better time than now, when I need some motherly love as I go through a show biz controversy aftermath.

She was one of my mom's closest friends, so her message certainly felt like my mom's pat on my battle-weary shoulders. I have many fond memories of Tita Nena, since her daughter **Liezl** is like a sister to me. When Liezl eloped with **Albert** (**Martinez**), I was one of the first people to learn about it.

Tita Nena waited for me at home for seven hours to interrogate me. I didn't show up 'cause I promised Albert and Liezl I would keep the details secret.

Since Liezl's marriage, things have been quite rocky between her and Tita Nena. Fully letting go of an *unica hija* is never easy. But when all else fails, a mother's love prevails.

To prove that, Tita Nena allowed me to share portions of her text with you, readers: "Hi, *anak*! Even while I was away for five months, I kept track of the ordeal you went through recently. You've done me and your mom proud! Liezl and I took a Meditterenean cruise last October.We reconnected after some conflicts in the past. Thanks to the publication of my Mother's Day letter in your column, Liezl has become more appreciative of the mother I have been to her. All our wounds have healed. Let's get together soon. Love U."

Tita Nena's affirmation is the best redeeming factor. It's like a purple heart medal after surviving one show biz battle after another.

'Ta Nena dear, you've always said that you want me to write your biography. The thought alone blows my mind. I'd be more than proud to write about your awesome life as much as I am so blessed to be part of it.

Buboy speaks

Cesar Montano finally breaks his silence about talk that he was spotted in a girly joint (Air Force 1) recently. His text reads: "*Mi amiga*, you're right. There's nothing wrong if I'm seen in Air Force 1. Wherever I go, I make sure I don't do anything that will put my family to shame. I'm a family man but people must also remember that I'm also an artist and a director. I work outside the box. Sometimes I have to mingle with all kinds of people in connection with a project or a role. Nothing more to it. I think joining politics is worse than going to places like Air Force 1."

On a happier note, Buboy told me that he's meeting with Hollywood producers **Marty Katz** and **Lawrence Bender** soon. If plans don't miscarry, he 'll be shooting in Montecarlo this November for a movie based on the book "Babylon's Ark" (by: **Lawrence Anthony**). Buboy really didn't need to land in the Magic 12 last elections—the magic of Hollywood beckons!

Ecstatic Dingdong

Dingdong Dantes is ecstatic about his new role as Sergio in the remake of "Marimar." Wouldn't his team-up with **Marian Rivera** affect his relationship with his girlfriend **Karylle**? "We've reached a comfy stage so no worries about work getting in the way of what we have," he says. "Communication and trust keep our relationship strong."

They are also venturing into a joint biz. "It has something to do with what K and I enjoy doing together—karaoke." A sure sign that they will be singing and stringing their hearts along for many more tomorrows.

CESAR MONTANO

Cayzer's first

Catch fascinating singer/songwriter **Chris Cayzer** in his first major concert, "Chris Cayzer Un Zamboangueno," on July 14, 7 p.m., at the Summit Center in Zamboanga.

The show will showcase his soothing voice and guitar skills via cuts from his debut album, like "Stay" and "I Got You."

Joining him onstage are **Lovi** and Frio band. Tickets are available at Aficionado Germany Perfume 3/F Area TK-42, Mindpro City and Busytone. Zamboanga isn't too far-flung to party the Cayzer way!

Rochelle Pangilinan is dead-set on being known as the Hiphop Bombshell of the Pinoy music industry via her solo debut album, "Roc-a-Holic" (Panacea Music). It has 12 songs that tell the story of Rochelle's struggles & dreams. The carrier single, "Baile," is the latest novelty song that will make everyone dance-crazy again. Her album sets the stage for a new music flavor that can be called "novelty hiphop." I wouldn't be surprised if her fans were called "Rocaholics Unanimous."

Accurate ratings

Agencies, buyers and other media-related organizations can now utilize the National Radio Survey (NRS). It covers over 900 radio stations in the country with a total of 8,000 respondents. The NRS is superior in methodology and scope. Accurate ratings per broadcast network are provided, unlike other radio surveys that merely indicate station ratings. NRS results are most useful in media planning and marketing. For more information, call 886-4180 or visit www.radioview.net. EARS to you!

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

Ayala CINEMAS
EARLIEST SCREENING AT GREENBELT 3 9:00 AM
TRANSFORMERS

OPENS TODAY AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

AYALA MALLS CINEMAS' TRANSFORMERS' SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR JUNE 28 (THU)

GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1** - 11:00 am, 1:55 pm, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
Cinema 2 - 10:50 am, 1:45 pm, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30
Cinema 3* - 1:15 pm, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00
Cinema 6 - 11:40 am, 2:35 pm, 5:30, 8:25, 11:20
Cinema 7 - 12:35 pm, 3:30, 6:25, 9:20

GLORIETTA I
Cinema 1 - 12:35 pm, 3:30, 6:25, 9:20
Cinema 2 - 1:05 pm, 4:00, 6:55, 9:20

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1*- 12:05 pm, 2:45, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45
Cinema 2 - 11:35 am, 2:15 pm, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15
Cinema 3 - 1:15 pm, 3:55, 6:35, 9:15
Cinema 4 - 1:45 pm, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45

TRINOMA
Cinema 2 - 12:25 pm, 3:15, 6:05, 8:55
Cinema 4**- 11:50 am, 2:40 pm, 5:30, 8:20
Cinema 5 - 11:20 am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
Cinema 6 - 10:35 am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05
Cinema 7* - 1:00 pm, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1* - 1:15 pm, 4:05, 9:45
Cinema 2* - 11:30 am, 2:20 pm, 5:10, 10:50
Cinema 4**- 12:40 pm, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00
Cinema 5**- 1:45 pm, 4:35, 10:15

GREENBELT I
Cinema 4 - 11:45 am, 2:40 pm, 5:35, 8:30

MARKET! MARKET!
Cinema 1** - 1:05 pm, 3:50, 6:35, 9:20
Cinema 4 - 1:35 pm, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
Cinema 5 - 12:05 pm, 2:50, 5:35, 8:20

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cinema 1 - 1:00 pm, 6:00, 9:00
Cinema 2 - 1:30 pm, 3:50, 6:30, 9:30
Cinema 4- 12:30 pm, 2:50, 5:30, 8:30

* - Guaranteed Seating & THX Certified
** - Guaranteed Seating & Digital Sound

Screening schedules are subject to change without prior notice.
For verification, pls. call 729-7777.
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

Log on to www.sureseats.com for web resrvation.

DreamWorks PICTURES glorietta GREENBELT · TOWN TriNoma

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls Love mall!

AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777
THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 BUG	4 TRANSFORMERS
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 TRANSFORMERS	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 BUG	5 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	6 TRANSFORMERS	7 TRANSFORMERS
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	2 TRANSFORMERS		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 TRANSFORMERS		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 TRANSFORMERS	5 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 TRANSFORMERS	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 THE INVISIBLE	4 TRANSFORMERS
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 TRANSFORMERS	2 BUG		
	3 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	4 TRANSFORMERS	5 TRANSFORMERS	

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
BPI Express Credit Installment Madness June 13 to July 1, 2007	Ansons Emporium Exhibit June 11 to 28, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Mitsubishi Car Display June 28 to 30 at Paseos	Ballet & Arts Centre at 3/F near Hallway of Blims Registration period is fr June 15 - 30. Classes starts July 3

GREENBELT
European Film Festival at the Parl
June 21 & 28, 2007 @ GB 3 Park

Onstage
ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays
& coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007
For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861

Ayala MUSEUM
Embroidered Mutliples: 18th - 19th Century Philippine Costume fr. The Museum Volkenkunde (National Museum of Ethnology), The Netherlands June 4 to July 1, 2007
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

Ayala CINEMAS
WATCH
TRANSFORMERS
AT THX
CERTIFIED CINEMAS

THE TECHNOLOGY BEHIND THE BLOCKBUSTER
GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER • TRINOMA
...OFFER YOU THE BEST & UNIQUE PICTURE & SOUND AVAILABLE IN A MOVIE EXPERIENCE.
For screening schedule, pls. call 729-7777
Log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation.
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)
OPENS TODAY AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

DreamWorks PICTURES glorietta GREENBELT TOWN TriNoma

SONY BMG
MALL SHOWS

Catch today's hottest bands as they perform their latest hits.

TriNoma · June 15
6 Cyclemind
"Home"
Activity Center, 6pm

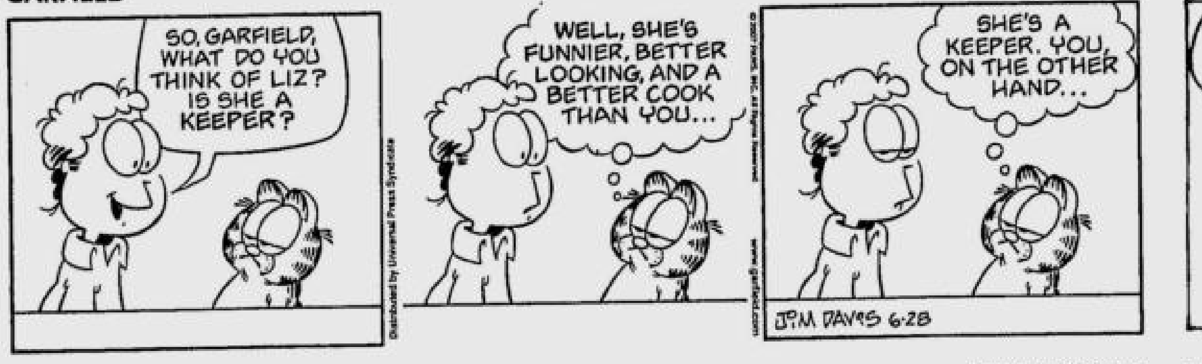
Market! Market! · June 22
Cueshé
"Back To Me"
Activity Center, 5pm

Pavilion Mall · June 30
Craeons
"Non-Toxic"
Bridgeway, 5pm

SONY BMG MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma PAVILION mall Managed by Ayala Malls

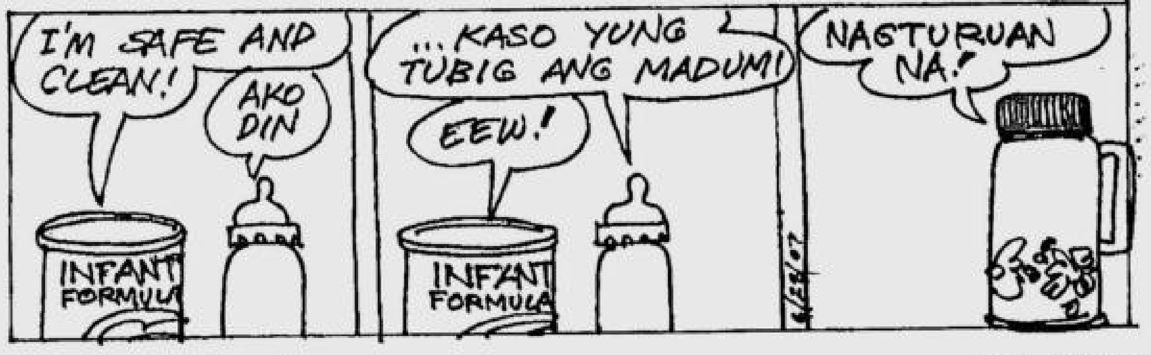
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


SO, GARFIELD, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF LIZ? IS SHE A KEEPER?
WELL, SHE'S FUNNIER, BETTER LOOKING, AND A BETTER COOK THAN YOU...
SHE'S A KEEPER. YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND...
JIM DAVIS 6-28

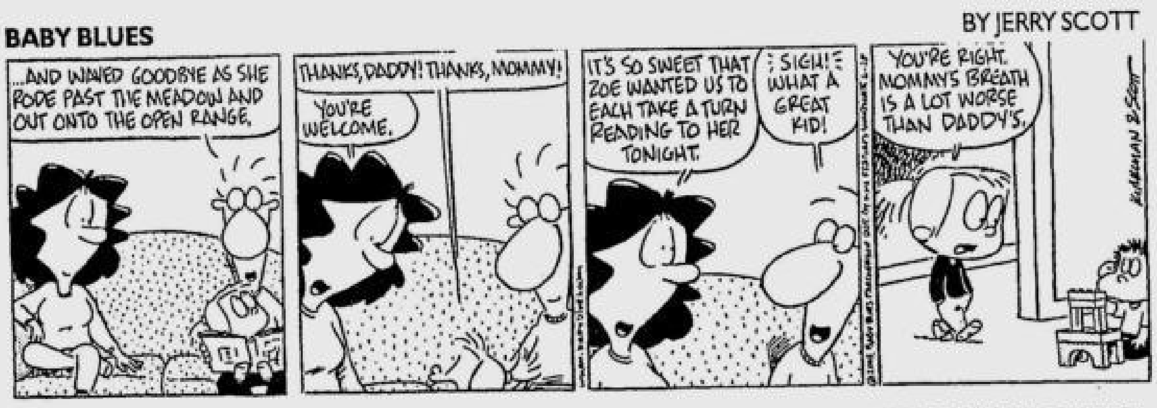
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


I'M SAFE AND CLEAN!
AKO DIN
INFANT FORMULA
...KASO YUNG TUBIG ANG MADUMI
EEW!
INFANT FORMULA
NAGTURUAN NA!

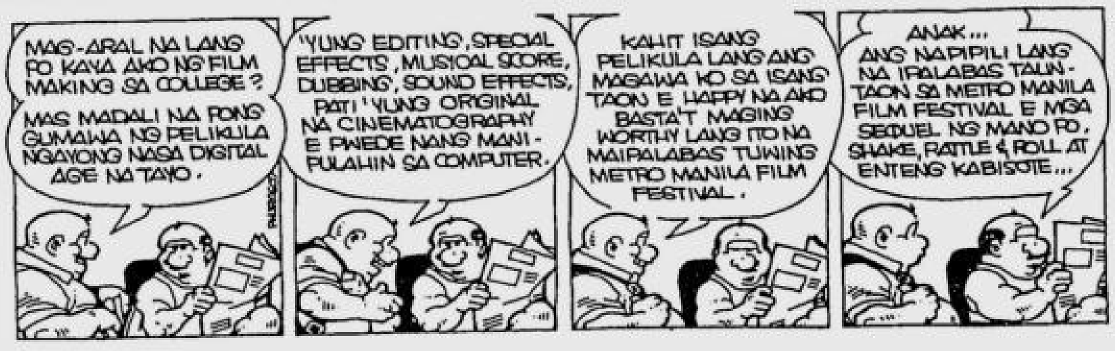
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


...AND WAVED GOODBYE AS SHE RODE PAST THE MEADOW AND OUT ONTO THE OPEN RANGE.
THANKS, DADDY! THANKS, MOMMY!
YOU'RE WELCOME.
IT'S SO SWEET THAT ZOE WANTED US TO EACH TAKE A TURN READING TO HER TONIGHT.
SIGH! WHAT A GREAT KID!
YOU'RE RIGHT. MOMMY'S BREATH IS A LOT WORSE THAN DADDY'S.

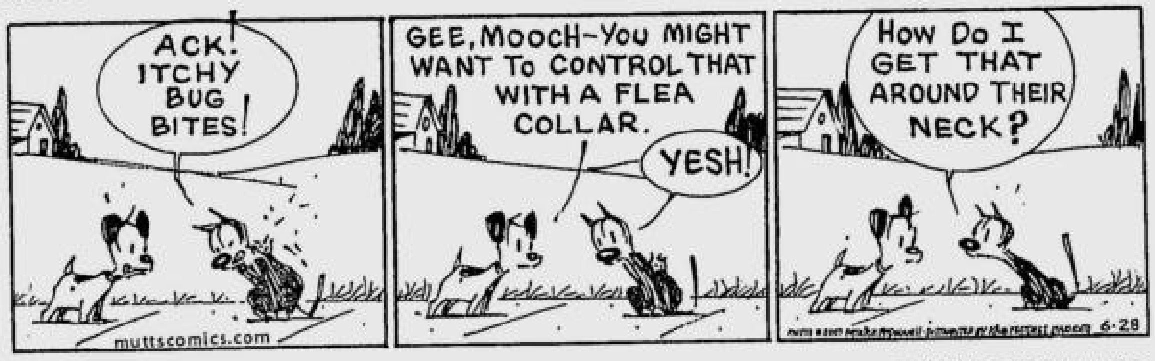
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAG-ARAL NA LANG PO KAYA AKO NG FILM MAKING SA COLLEGE?
MAS MADALI NA PONG GUMAWA NG PELIKULA NGAYONG NASA DIGITAL AGE NA TAYO.
'YUNG EDITING, SPECIAL EFFECTS, MUSICAL SCORE, DUBBING, SOUND EFFECTS, PATI 'YUNG ORIGINAL NA CINEMATOGRAPHY E PWEDE NANG MANI-PULAHIN SA COMPUTER.
KAHIT ISANG PELIKULA LANG ANG MAGAWA KO SA ISANG TAON E HAPPY NA AKO BASTA'T MAGING WORTHY LANG ITO NA MAIPALABAS TUWING METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL.
ANAK... ANG NAPIPILI LANG NA IPALABAS TAUN-TAON SA METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL E MGA SEQUEL NG MANO PO, SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL AT ENTENG KABISOTE...

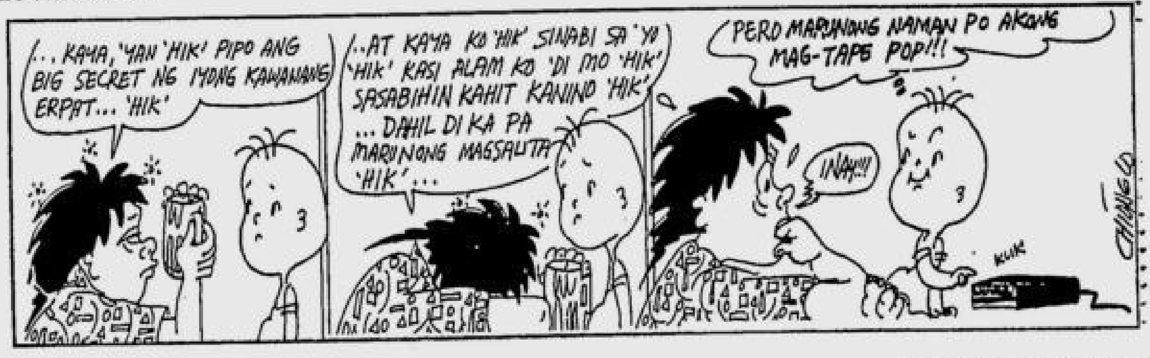
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ACK! ITCHY BUG BITES!
GEE, MOOCH—YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONTROL THAT WITH A FLEA COLLAR.
YESH!
HOW DO I GET THAT AROUND THEIR NECK?
muttscomics.com
6-28

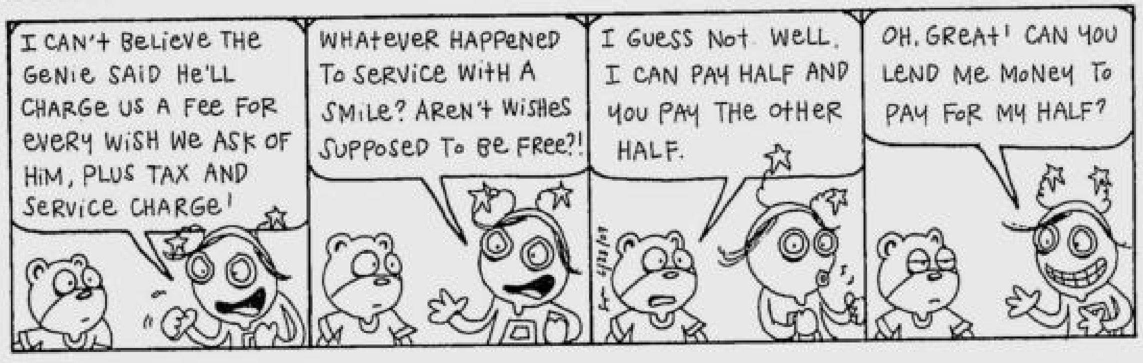
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


...KAYA, 'YAN 'HIK' PIPO ANG BIG SECRET NG IYONG KAWAWANG ERPAT... 'HIK'
..AT KAYA KO 'HIK' SINABI SA 'YO 'HIK' KASI ALAM KO 'DI MO 'HIK' SASABIHIN KAHIT KANINO 'HIK' ...DAHIL DI KA PA MARUNONG MAGSALITA 'HIK'...
PERO MARUNONG NAMAN PO AKONG MAG-TAPE POP!!!
INAY!!!
KLIK
CHIONGLO

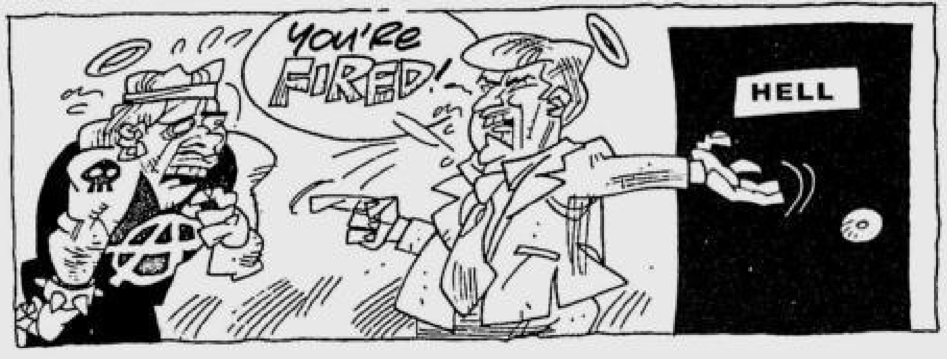
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I CAN'T BELIEVE THE GENIE SAID HE'LL CHARGE US A FEE FOR EVERY WISH WE ASK OF HIM, PLUS TAX AND SERVICE CHARGE!
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SERVICE WITH A SMILE? AREN'T WISHES SUPPOSED TO BE FREE?!
I GUESS NOT. WELL, I CAN PAY HALF AND YOU PAY THE OTHER HALF.
OH, GREAT! CAN YOU LEND ME MONEY TO PAY FOR MY HALF?

DIVINE COMEDY

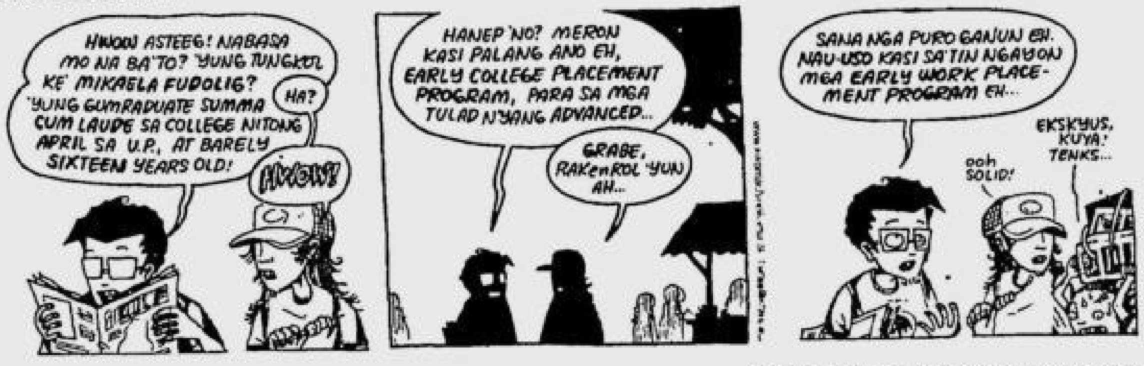
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


YOU'RE FIRED!
HELL

MAY TRABAHO NA SI DONALD TRUMP SA AFTER-LIFE

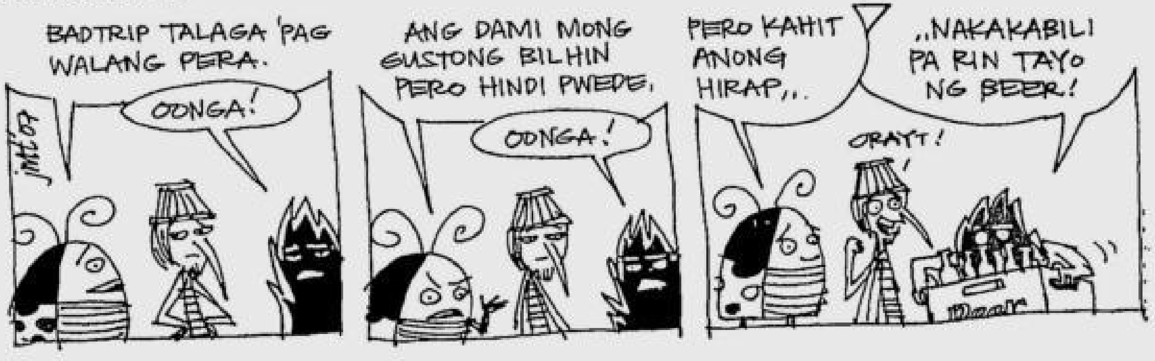
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOW ASTEEG! NABASA MO NA BA'TO? 'YUNG TUNGKOL KE' MIKAELA FUDOLIG? 'YUNG GUMRADUATE SUMMA CUM LAUDE SA COLLEGE NITONG APRIL SA U.P., AT BARELY SIXTEEN YEARS OLD!
HA?
HWOW!
HANEP 'NO? MERON KASI PALANG ANO EH, EARLY COLLEGE PLACEMENT PROGRAM, PARA SA MGA TULAD N'YANG ADVANCED...
GRABE, RAKENROL 'YUN AH...
SANA NGA PURO GANUN EH. NAU-USO KASI SA'TIN NGAYON MGA EARLY WORK PLACE-MENT PROGRAM EH...
OOH SOLID!
EKSKYUS, KUYA! TENKS...

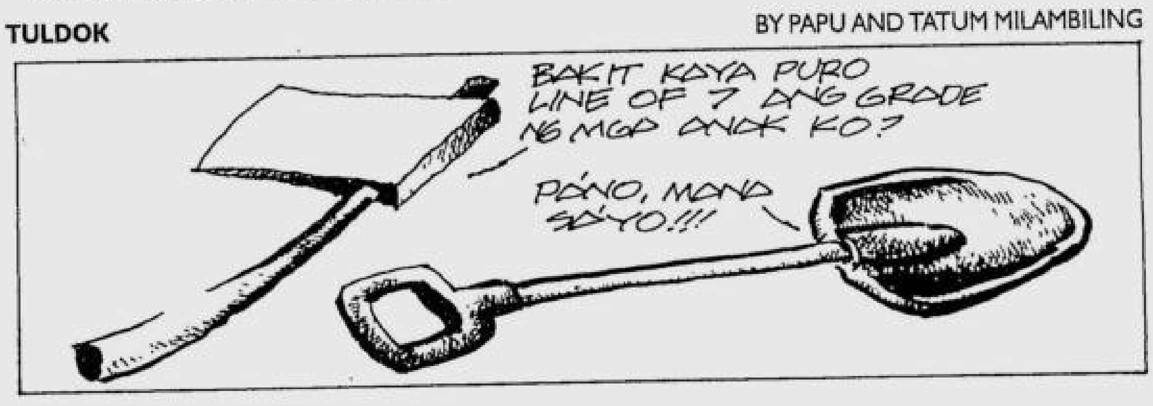
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BADTRIP TALAGA 'PAG WALANG PERA.
OONGA!
ANG DAMI MONG GUSTONG BILHIN PERO HINDI PWEDE.
OONGA!
PERO KAHIT ANONG HIRAP,..
..NAKAKABILI PA RIN TAYO NG BEER!
ORAYT!

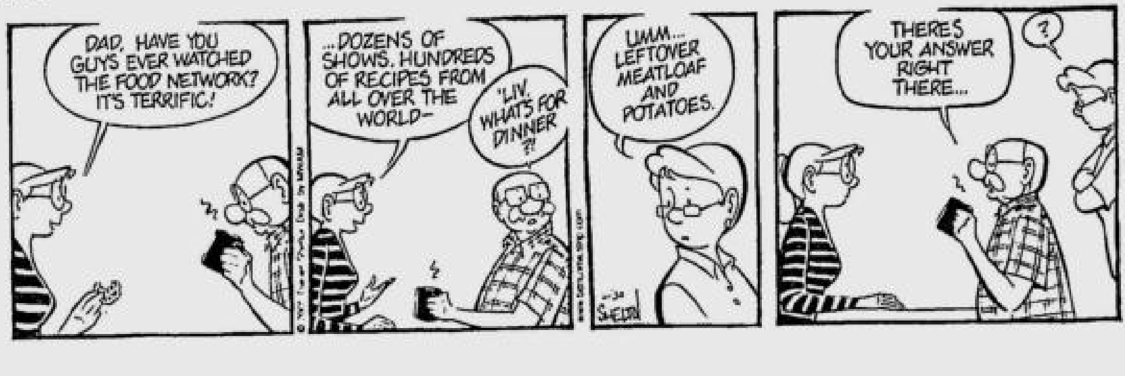
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

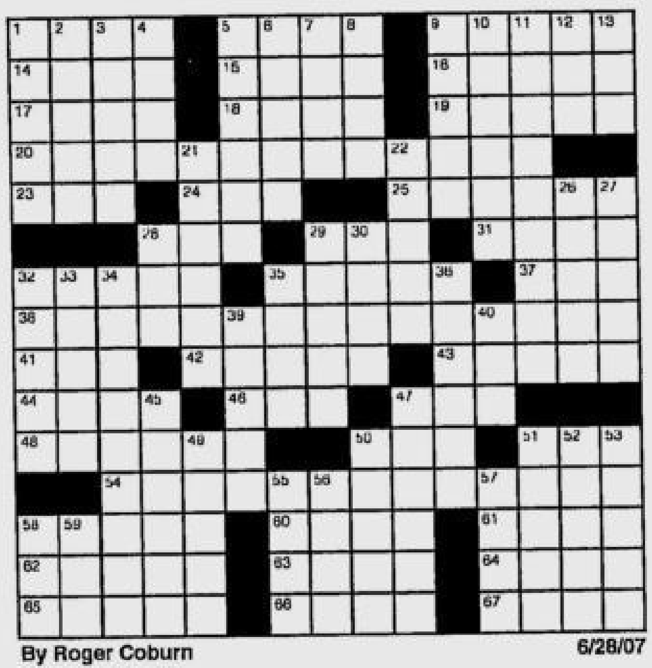

BAKIT KAYA PURO LINE OF 7 ANG GRADE NG MGA ANAK KO?
PANO, MANA SAYO!!!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DAD, HAVE YOU GUYS EVER WATCHED THE FOOD NETWORK? IT'S TERRIFIC!
...DOZENS OF SHOWS. HUNDREDS OF RECIPES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD—
'LIV, WHAT'S FOR DINNER?!
UMM... LEFTOVER MEATLOAF AND POTATOES.
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER RIGHT THERE...
?

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA

6/28/07

ACROSS
1 Santa __, CA
5 Dizzy couple?
9 "Star Wars" director
14 Tel __-Jaffa
15 Legendary lawman
16 Bikini or Eniwetok
17 Mount of Moses
18 Song from an opera
19 Bonkers
20 Start of a quip
23 Letters on Cardinals' baseball caps
24 Affectedly shy
25 Dead ember
28 Part of a play
29 Another dead ember
31 Delhi wear
32 Sufficient
35 Goodyear airship
37 Animal house
38 Part 2 of quip
41 Commotion
42 Bird call
43 Buenos __, Arg.
44 Stitches
46 Rural stopover
47 Place to work out
48 Speed up
50 Choler
51 Juliette Low's org.
54 End of quip
58 Separately
60 Sub station?
61 Number on a sundial
62 More tender
63 Birdbrain
64 Choir voice
65 Run-down and shabby
66 Cain's nephew
67 Fewer

DOWN
1 Ayn and Sally
2 Out in the open
3 Lady oracle
4 Swear
5 Fanatic
6 Too soon
7 U.S. border lake
8 Practice punching
9 Veranda in Hawaii
10 One-eighties
11 Resort area of France
12 Elev.
13 Like a fox
21 Take as is
22 Doofus
26 Eaten away
27 Unrestrained outbreaks
28 Everything
29 Miles Standish's friend John
30 Sort through
32 Swamped
33 Jason's wife
34 Blade of a farm tool
35 Well in France
36 Supplication
39 Stupefying
40 Conrad novel, "Lord __"
45 Gawked
47 Cereals
49 Way in
50 Ice house?
51 Crafty deception
52 Hissy fits
53 Spanish sayonara
55 Unemployed
56 One of the noble gases
57 Track shape
58 Beast of burden
59 Part of E.A.P.

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	H	O	P	■	F	A	T	S	■	O	R	S	O	N
P	E	R	I	■	A	M	A	T	■	R	E	T	I	E
E	R	A	T	■	R	A	R	A	■	I	V	A	N	S
C	E	L	T	I	C	S	A	N	D	B	U	C	K	S
■	■	■	A	C	E	S	■	D	R	I	P	■	■	■
A	D	O	N	I	S	■	T	A	O	S	■	G	E	M
T	R	A	C	E	■	M	O	R	O	■	S	E	G	A
L	A	K	E	R	S	A	N	D	P	A	C	E	R	S
A	P	E	S	■	T	R	E	S	■	B	A	N	E	S
W	E	N	■	D	I	M	S	■	R	E	B	A	T	E
■	■	■	S	I	N	O	■	S	A	A	B	■	■	■
R	O	C	K	E	T	S	A	N	D	M	A	G	I	C
A	T	L	A	S	■	E	L	O	I	■	R	A	S	H
I	R	A	T	E	■	T	O	R	S	■	D	O	L	E
D	O	W	E	L	■	S	E	T	H	■	S	L	E	W

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6/28/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're intelligent, mentally quick and witty. People find you fascinating and entertaining. You can put a humorous spin on anything. You're a born leader, but you need appreciation for your efforts. You enjoy the company of people, especially children. The year ahead will be fascinating because you're destined to study or learn something important.

Birthdate of: Kathy Bates, actress; John Cusack, actor; Mary Stuart Masterson, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Conversations with family members are hot and convincing! You're really going to put a lot of yourself into whatever you have to say.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're very keen to persuade somebody to agree with you today. However, this same astrological quality allows you to sell, market, teach, act or persuade others to follow your lead.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Because you identify with what you own today, you won't be too thrilled about lending your possessions to anyone else. You feel very proud of what you have right now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Both the Sun and Mercury are in your sign today. This gives you a strong urge to talk to everyone. You want to be involved with whatever is going on around you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a wonderful day for research. If you're searching for answers or secrets, you'll find them. You're in the right frame of mind to see the subtext of everything.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Conversations with friends and groups are lively and productive today. You'll truly enjoy talking to others. In turn, they'll find you extremely convincing!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Discussions with bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs can be very successful today. Both Mercury and the Sun are at the top of your chart. This means others are ready to listen to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Now is the time to take up studies or sign up for a course, or to think about returning to school. You're eager to learn something new and expand your world.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Focus on wills, inheritances, insurance matters, taxes and debt today. If you take care of these red-tape details, you'll love yourself for it later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be prepared to listen to what others have to say today. Both the Sun and Mercury are directly opposite your sign. This means information is coming to you!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're all fired up about something at work today. That's fine. You picked one of the best days to give everyone else your opinion.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're in a playful frame of mind today. Take a long lunch. Leave work early if you can. Catch a matinee, watch a movie or participate in a game.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	3			6				
		9						5
			4	1			8	
						3		
1		7	2	3	8	9		6
		8						
	6			4	3			
9						4		
				8			7	

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/28

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	8	1	7	3	4	2	5	9
7	5	3	2	9	1	8	6	4
4	9	2	6	8	5	7	3	1
8	2	4	3	1	6	9	7	5
9	1	7	4	5	2	3	8	6
5	3	6	8	7	9	4	1	2
1	7	9	5	2	8	6	4	3
2	6	8	1	4	3	5	9	7
3	4	5	9	6	7	1	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/27

JOEY DE LEON

Knack for novelty

SPIN CITY

JOEY DE LEON'S KNACK for writing novelty hits is shaking up the town again with "Itaktak Mo," which has spawned a daily contest in the noontime show "Eat Bulaga."

"Itaktak Mo" is one of 11 tracks in "Joey To The World Vol. 2" (Sony BMG), the veteran TV host-comedian's follow-up to "Joey To The World," released in 2004.

"Vol. 2," produced in cooperation with PLDT Budget Card, is hot on the sales charts and reportedly nearing the platinum mark.

PAROKYA NI EDGAR

Rare video

Parokya ni Edgar's "Matira Matibay" (Universal Records) is released in three formats CD, VCD and DVD.

It contains the band's hits from 1994 to 2007. The DVD version contains a rare, never-been-aired music video of "Bagsakan."

Feeling romantic

Westlife is back with "The Love Album: Deluxe Edition" (Sony BMG), the British pop group's eighth studio recording.

There are five original tracks and six covers including "Total Eclipse of the Heart," "The Rose," "If" and "Solitaire."

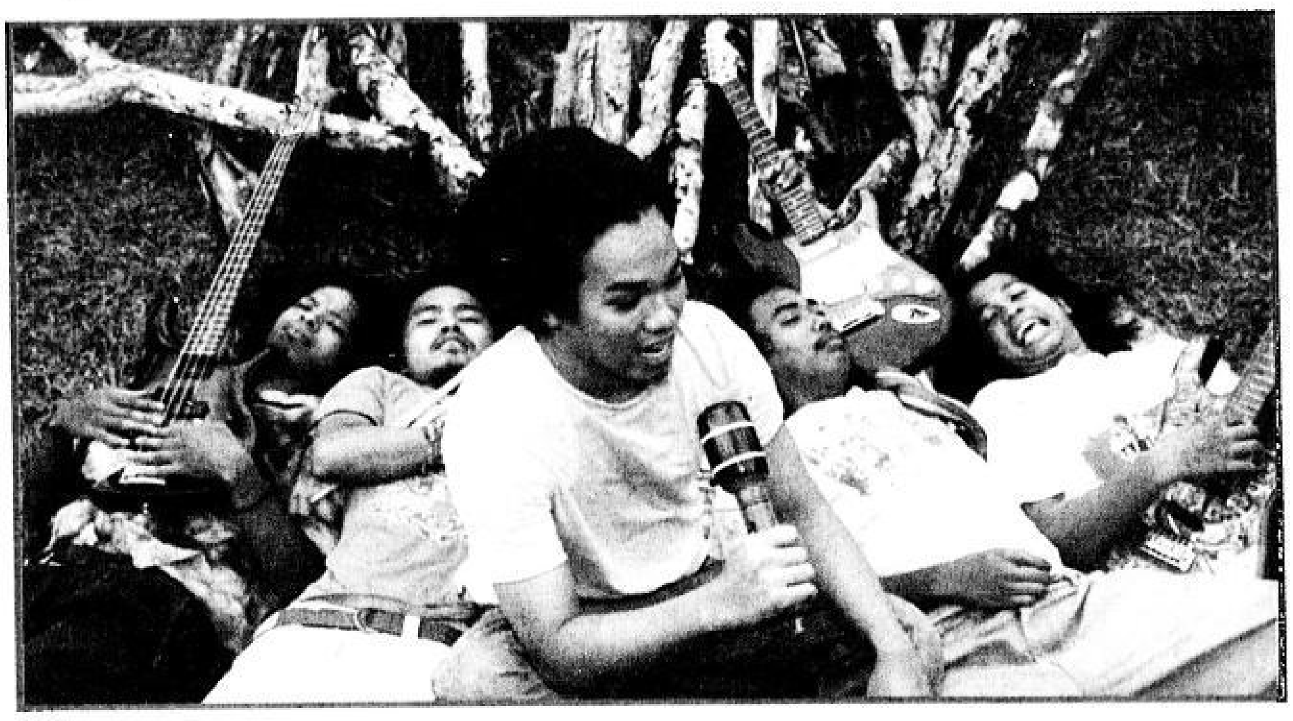
WESTLIFE

Westlife has sold 35 million records worldwide, with seven multi-platinum albums in the UK alone.

Genre-defying

Good Charlotte returns with producer Don Gilmore (Pearl Jam, Avril Lavigne) for its latest album, "Good Morning Revival" (Sony BMG).

It combines rock, dance and "genre-defying" tunes that could qualify Good Charlotte either as a punk quintet, a techno group, or simply a bona fide pop band.



MUDFLOW: In foreground is vocalist Abraham Depeo

PHOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA / INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Reggae and 'kundiman'

A band of Bicolanos resurrects 'Sarung Banggi' with a new beat

By Jaymee Gamil and Ephraim Aguilar
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SANTO DOMINGO, ALBAY—WHILE rock and bubblegum music are still the rage, a young band in this town chose to experiment with an old Bicolano song that kids would be hard put to remember.

Fusing reggae and *kundiman*, the band Mudflow overhauled the folk classic "Sarung Banggi" ("One Evening") and turned it into an unlikely pop hit.

"Sarung Banggi" was written by Potenciano Gregorio Sr. (1880-1939), a native of Lib-og town, now known as Sto. Domingo—the place where the band was formed.

Created awareness

The attempt to update a traditional Bicolano folk song through the infectious beat of reggae was Mudflow's way of encouraging its peers to rediscover their own cultural heritage.

The modernized "Sarung Banggi" succeeded in creating an awareness when it was included by Manila FM radio station Jam 88.3 in its music compilation album, "Doobie Nights" (Galaxy Records), released in 2006.

The song tells of a man who was roused from sleep one night by what he thought was a songbird. Realizing it was not a dream, the man rose and soon discovered it was his lover's voice that had awakened him.

"We picked that song because it's our town's heritage song. As Bicolanos, we wanted to promote our own culture through music," said Mudflow vocalist and main songwriter Abraham Depeo, 23.

Bridged gap

Depeo added that the remake has bridged a generation gap, with young and old equally appreciating it during the band's gigs.

The other members of the five-man group are drummer Ray Gerard Marquez, 23; bassist Fidel Balin Jr., 25; lead guitarist Fidel Balin III, 22; and guitarist Mark Andrew Ortiz, 20.

Mudflow got its name while the guys were on their way to Legazpi City, from a road sign alerting travelers to overflowing water from the gullies of Mayon Volcano. The sign read: "Warning: Mudflow ahead."

In 2002, Mudflow won in the regional Battle of the Bands held annually at the Magayon Festival. The band released its first independent, self-titled album the following year. It had eight songs, four of which were originals.

The album was recorded and reproduced using a desktop computer.

For P5,000 Mudflow churned out 100 copies burned on compact discs. The guys sold the CD for P120 each.

Several tracks, including the now-famous "Sarung Banggi" remake, have gained regular airplay on local radio stations in the Bicol region.

More than music

The band members insist reggae is more than music.

"It is idealism conveyed through music," Depeo said. "It is performed for a cause."

One of Mudlow's original compositions, "Paraisong Panaginip," discusses environmental degradation.

Another song, "Ay Naku Po," is about young people dealing with pressure.

Mudflow lamented insufficient support or recognition extended to fledgling bands in the provinces.

"We have a lot of serious and talented musicians here but their potentials do not fully develop due to lack of equipment," said bassist Fidel Balin Jr.

Missed opportunity

Depeo recounted that Mudflow once had to decline a Manila-based director's offer to make a video for "Sarung Banggi" because equipment rental alone would have cost them P50,000.

He noted that it's hard for a full-time musician to provide for a family, and so many have left the country to pursue careers abroad.

Mudflow does not buy the idea of working as well-paid musicians overseas.

Balin explained: "Even if we try, we won't be able to play together for sure, since it is the practice of recruitment agencies to screen musicians and form new bands from among the ones that they like."

Mudflow clings to the hope of entering the mainstream Filipino music industry and still popularize music that reflects the unique culture they represent.

MARK Andrew "Drew" Ortiz, rhythm guitar

FIDEL "F3" Balin III, lead guitar

RAY Gerard "RG" Marquez, drums

FIDEL Balin Jr., bass

Willie Nep stars in 'Feelin' Las Vegas'

SHOW TIME

ON JULY 7, 2007 (777), WILLIE Nepomuceno, Man of Many Voices and Faces, does an all-star cast show on his own at the Music Museum. "Watch" Las Vegas top draws Paul Anka, Johnny Mathis, Tony Bennett, Andy Williams, Matt Monro, Cliff Richard, Nat "King" Cole and daughter Natalie, Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley, even the Beatles. Show starts at 8:30 p.m. Call 920-4489 of (0920) 557-5575.

Winston Wednesdays

Segafredo Zanetti Espresso Greenbelt presents "Winston Wednesdays" with the following bands: Acoustic Jive on June 27; SinosiKat? on July 11; and The Sound on July 25.

Acoustic Jive is known for covering classic pop ballads. SinosiKat?, led by vocalist Kat Agarrado, fuses jazz, rock and soul in its original songs. The Sound is influenced by the Beatles, Stevie Wonder, Jamiroquai and Steely Dan.

Freestyle at Mugen

Fresh from a US tour, Freestyle returns with a gig at Mugen Bar, Metrowalk, Pasig on June 29.

US-Canadian tour

Kuh Ledesma winds up her US-Canadian tour with two shows—on Aug. 3 at the Cannon Center in Memphis, and on Aug. 4 with MYMP at The Grove in Anaheim, California. The tour covered 25 cities in two months.

A Seat fit for the Li'l King

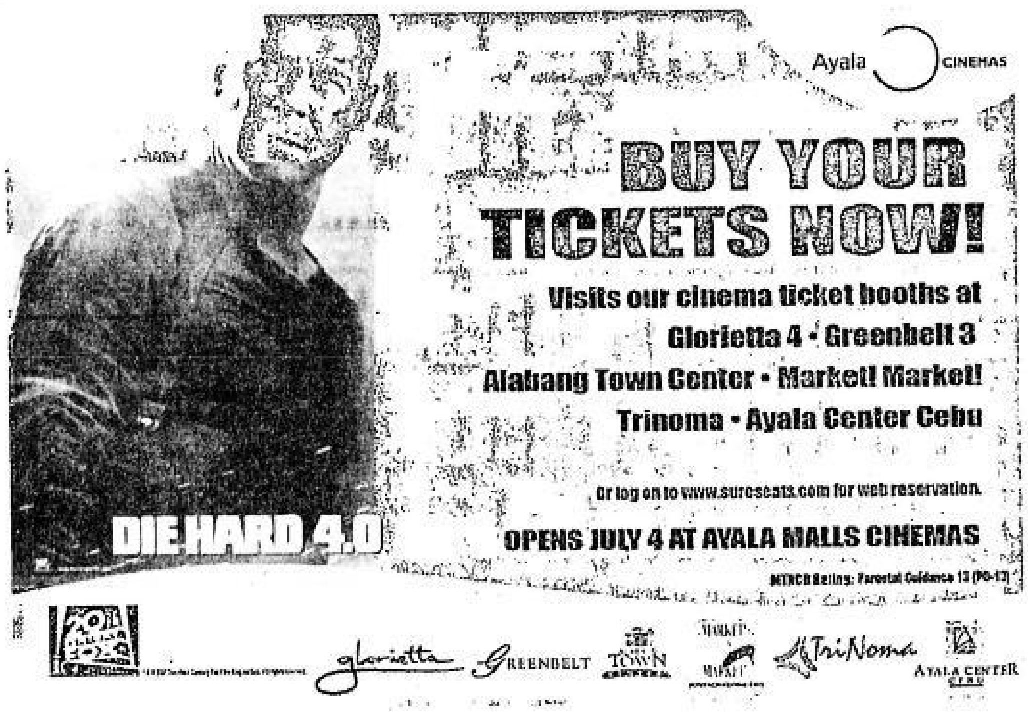
Introducing the Ayala Malls Cinemas BOOSTER BUDDY.

Its two-sided design provides height options for children of different ages.

It has a cup and candy holder. It's odorless and has no sharp corners.

Its lightweight design allows children to carry their own seat.

Ayala Malls CINEMAS



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Alabang Town Center • Market! Market!
Trinoma • Ayala Center Cebu

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DIE HARD 4.0

OPENS JULY 4 AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Market! Market! TriNoma Ayala Center Cebu

Ayala CINEMAS

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

TRANSFORMERS

AT TriNoma

For screening schedule, pls. call 729-7777
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

OPENS TODAY

DreamWorks Pictures

TriNoma

MTRCB RATINGS G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
STRONG CAUTION: The film contains some scenes of war, gunfight and robotic stunts!

THEIR WAR. OUR WORLD.
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A MICHAEL BAY FILM
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PROTECT

DESTROY

visit website: TransformersMovie.com

OPENS TODAY

DreamWorks Pictures
Solar Entertainment Corporation

Canon
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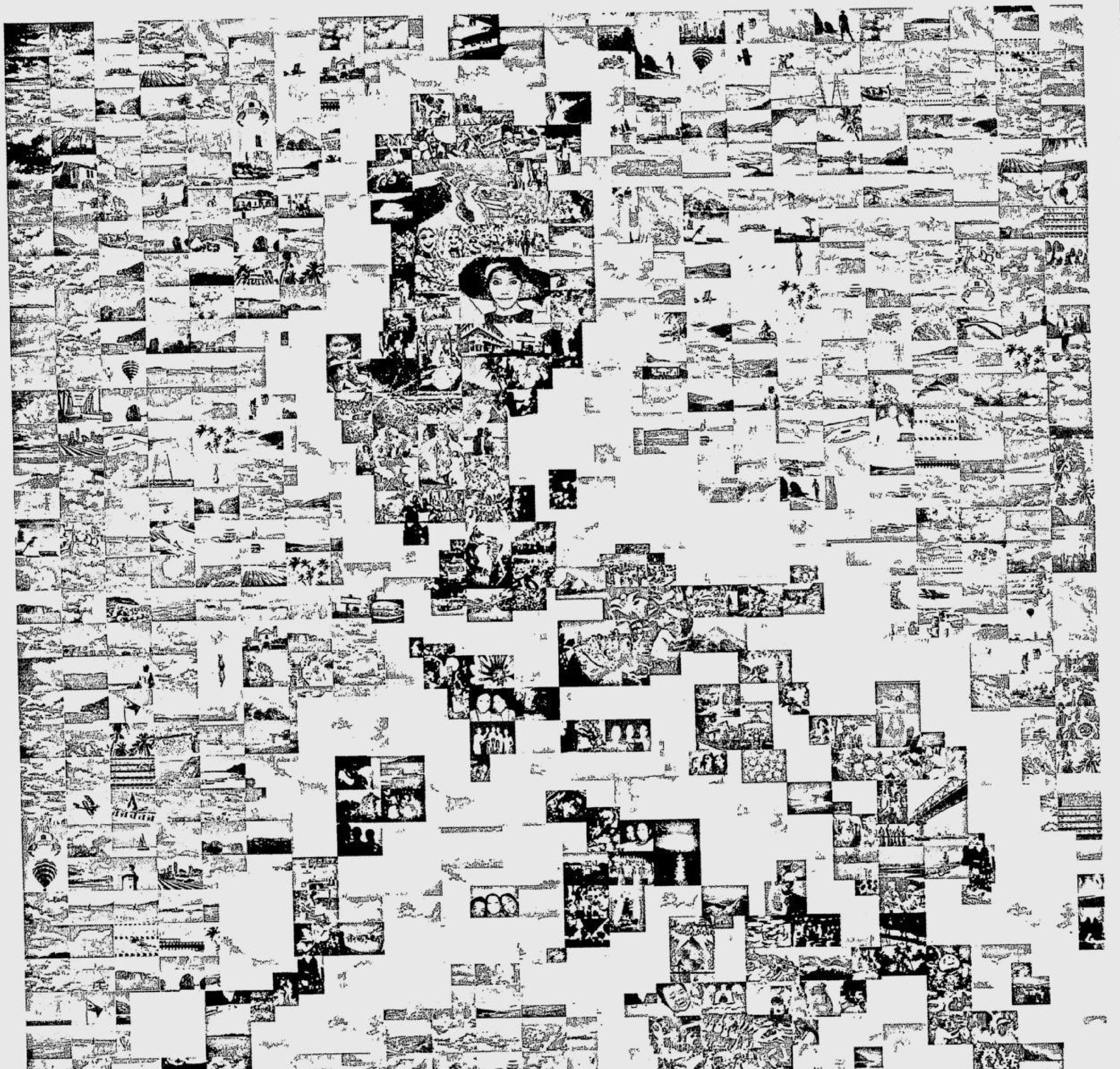
10
Delightful Years
IN THE PHILIPPINES

Canon Image Nation



EVERYBODY WELCOME

Canon

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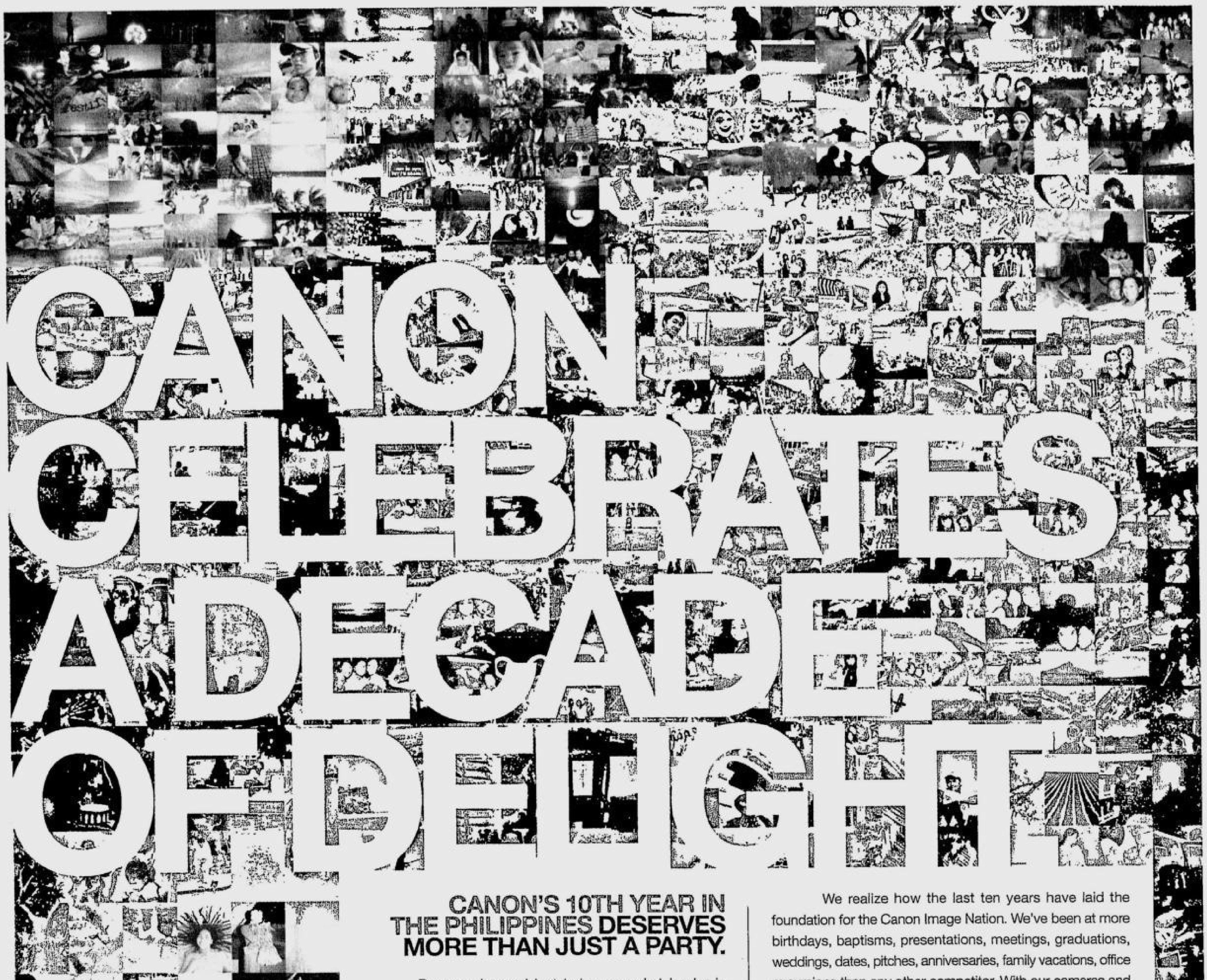

CANON CELEBRATES A DECADE OF DELIGHT

CANON'S 10TH YEAR IN THE PHILIPPINES DESERVES MORE THAN JUST A PARTY.

Because beyond just being a market leader in imaging solutions, we've become friends and partners with a delightful people. A people in love with taking, creating, being part of, and sharing stories and images.

Because in ten years, it isn't just a successful business we've built. More than that, what we've built is a wonderful relationship with the Filipino.

And it's a relationship that finds a home today. A home we call the Canon Image Nation.

This isn't just an anniversary bash. The Canon Image Nation is our tribute to the Filipino and his love affair with images. For all the albums and picture frames enshrined in the *sala*. For all the chewing gum smiles whipped out faster than you can say "*O picture picture!*" For the home and office printers endlessly churning out presentation materials, class projects, business reports, blueprints, family pictures, and sometimes even horoscopes. It's a salute to all of the family videographers, the shutterbugs, the lovebirds, the graphic designers, the CAD operators, the photocopy ladies, the men who try not to laugh as high school seniors pose and preen for their grad pics, the waiters who make sure the whole clan fits into the viewfinder, the wedding photographer lying on the church steps or climbing the scaffolding for that one wonderful shot.

This is our way of framing all of the sights and cities and wonders of this picturesque nation. The sunrise over the Sierra Madre. The fog tiptoeing through Session Road. The famed Manila Bay sunset. The waves kissing the white sands of Coron. And the 7,107 smiles of the Filipino, from the signature Ilonggo *kadlaw* to the impish *ngisi* of the Cebuanos.

The Canon Image Nation is home to those images which have shaped our history: from the panorama of new magazines, newspapers, and weeklies that renewed the full freedom of the press, to the thousands of new nurses, caregivers, English teachers and Disneyland Hong Kong performers making ends meet in between *despedidas* and homecomings. From how the fists of a one-time cigarette vendor named Manny Pacquiao brought his foes to their knees, and the world to its feet. To how the masses reprised People Power and transformed a religious shrine into a monument of democracy.

And let's not forget that clear, blue sky we all keenly waited for, after Paeng and Milenyo.

We realize how the last ten years have laid the foundation for the Canon Image Nation. We've been at more birthdays, baptisms, presentations, meetings, graduations, weddings, dates, pitches, anniversaries, family vacations, office excursions than any other competitor. With our cameras and camcorders, we've made faces and places that much easier to recall and revisit, and turned weddings and debuts into really moving movies. Our Digital Copiers, All-in-One printers, and LCD Projectors have worked well into the night helping marketing teams and advertising agencies win new businesses and partnerships with handsome portfolios and brilliant presentations. We've let people print their own postcards, and share their own view of Mines View Park, their own take on Tagaytay. And we've painted the town much more than red with vibrant, full-color posters, banners, and other display materials through our Large Format Printers. For the past 10 years, we've helped save brands and businesses from forgetability. And we've helped save people's stories from forgetfulness.

With the foundation of the Canon Image Nation, we're creating more venues where people can celebrate their love of images in full force and full color.

We'll have competitions, galas, and expos where the Image Nation community can gather and discover even more ways to make images work for them. We'll be holding workshops and exhibits and even parties. We'll be publishing books, journals, and trade magazines. Everyone—families, business owners, barkadas, couples, artists—will have a place to hone their craft, shop their wares, and share their art.

The Canon Image Nation will be the home not of just a few tales. But millions of stories. 87,000,000 stories.

As we close out our first decade in the Philippines, we look forward to seeing you—and seeing you through—the next 10, 100, 1000 years. We look forward to more pictures, more portfolios, more postcards, more posters, more mini-movies, more images, more memories. We look forward to providing you with even more innovative imaging products to excite and engage your imagination.

But more than anything, we thank you for your trust. For letting us be more than just a manufacturer of imaging devices and business imaging solutions. For making us your travel companion. Your business partner. Your storyteller. Thank you for seeing us through the decade, and for memories worth many decades more.

Welcome to the Canon Image Nation.

THANK YOU FOR DELIGHTING US. ALWAYS.

Canon Hailed Reader's Digest "Gold Trusted Brand" and GfK's "No. 1 Digital Camera Brand,"

Receives ISO 9001:2000 Certification for Quality

Canon has become one of the most favored and trusted brands among Filipinos based on a recently conducted brand survey by the world's leading magazine, Reader's Digest, and according to the 2006 Consumer Electronics Retail Audit by reputable market research and consumer tracking company, GfK Asia.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. (CMPI) won this year's Reader's Digest "Gold Trusted Brand" in three categories, namely, Camera/Digital Camera, Printer/Scanner and Office Equipment. In a consumer survey conducted by Reader's Digest together with international media research and analysis firm, Nielsen Media Research, results showed that more Filipinos rely and continue to rely on Canon for digital imaging products than any of the other brands. The brand attributes taken into consideration during the data collection and assessment included trustworthiness, credible image, quality, value, understanding and customer needs and innovation.

Canon was also recognized as GfK's "No. 1 Digital Camera Brand" in GfK's Consumer Electronics Retail Audit in 2006. The award is based on actual unit sales of various consumer electronics products, with Digital Camera being a new category.

"Canon is honored to receive the Reader's Digest Gold Trust Award and the GfK's No. 1 Brand as they are a direct testament to customer trust and satisfaction in Canon products and services. We give the highest regard to our customers, and to have been chosen a trusted or favorite brand underscores Canon's ability to understand and satisfy customers' needs. The awards are especially significant to Canon as we celebrate our 10th year in the Philippines," said Ramon G. Arteficio, President and CEO, CMPI.

Canon was also recently granted by SGS Philippines the ISO 9001: 2000 certification, which affirms CMPI's success in applying global best practices in its business processes and procedures to ensure highest customer satisfaction and promote continuous improvement. Basic fundamentals to CMPI's quality management system were standardized and enhanced over a nine-month period, including management of commitment to customers, documentation of procedures, controls and quality management system, customer feedback and management review. CMPI is vying for additional ISO certifications on environment, health and safety, and security by 2008.

"With Canon's long history in technology excellence, relentless innovation, R&D investment, and quality systems enhancement, the company continues to gain ground and strengthen its brand positioning in the Philippine market," said Arteficio.

The recently awarded industry recognitions and ISO certification received by Canon demonstrate the company's dedication to consistently deliver best in class products and further improve its business processes. With these accolades, consumers can expect that in the coming months and years, Canon will continue to provide them with technologically superior digital imaging products and solutions that will equip them to be ready to capture, store and share all the special moments and memories that come their way.

GfK Award: Photo shows Ramon G. Arteficio, President and CEO, Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. receiving the GfK No. 1 Award from Gwee Siew Theng, regional account manager, Asia Imaging, GfK Asia Pte. Ltd. Also in photo (from left) are Mayer Mendoza, Assistant Manager – Imaging, GfK Philippines (left); Katrina Tioseco, Product Supervisor – Digital IXUS, PowerShot, CanonDV, Selphy - Consumer Imaging & Information (CII) Division, Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. and Emalou Amechachura, Product Assistant – Digital IXUS, PowerShot, CanonDV, Selphy - CII Division, Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc.

About the Awards

Already on its ninth year, the Reader's Digest Trusted Brands Survey asks the consumers to name the brand they trust in various categories of services and products, and rate the brand based on the following attributes: trustworthiness, credible image, quality, value, understanding and customer needs and innovation. This year's survey was conducted with 7,000 respondents from Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines. The evaluation of consumer feedback is dependent on the dynamics of the industries (i.e. consumer electronics) in the seven markets involved.

The GfK Asia Award for the No. 1 Brand, on the other hand, recognizes the top-selling brand for every calendar year in each product category covered by GfK's Consumer Electronics Retail Audit reporting. Eligible brands are those in general distribution in the country in which the award relates and the winner in each category is determined by the unit sales that a brand has had for a period from January to December. The GfK Group is the no. 4 market research organization worldwide, with its Asia office concentrating on Retail and Technology tracking.

The ISO 9001:2000 Certification attests that an organization's Quality Management System has been certified against a best practice standard and found compliant. Issued by a third party certification body/registrar, the certificate lets customers know they can trust that you have implemented the necessary internal processes to meet obligations. The internationally recognized ISO 9001:2000 standard is generic. It is not a product standard, but applicable to any manufacturing or service industry. The ISO 9001:2000 is an updated standard, which places more emphasis on continual improvement and customer satisfaction. Created by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), its objective is to set international requirements for Quality Management Systems.

About Canon: Canon Inc. is a global leader in photographic and digital imaging solutions. It is dedicated to the advancement in technology and innovation and commits 10% of its total revenue each year to R&D. Canon has consistently remained as one of the top 3 companies to have earned the most number of patents over the last decade. Since 1993, Canon continues to be ranked as one of the world's largest corporations by the Fortune Global 500 Ranking. Guided by its kyosei philosophy, which focuses on "living and working together for the common good," Canon delivers high-performance and user-friendly products and solutions to improve efficiency both in the office and home environment. Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. is currently celebrating its tenth year of operations in the country. More information is available at www.canon.com.ph.

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VOTED BY CONSUMERS
Reader's Digest
TRUSTED BRAND 2007

Photo shows Ramon G. Arteficio, President and CEO, Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. (center) holding the Reader's Digest Gold Trusted Brand Award. Also in photo (from left) are Lilet Camara-Yan, Advertising Director, Reader's Digest Phils.; Jill Santiago, Product Supervisor for Printers, Scanners and Consumables, Canon Mktg. (Phils.), Inc.; and Simon Cholmeley, Director for Regional Advertising, Reader's Digest Asia.

Canon
Delighting You Always
CANON MARKETING PHILIPPINES , INC.
is certified to
ISO 9001:20
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CATION
SGS
CERTIFICATION

ISO Certification: Photo shows Ramon G. Arteficio, President and CEO, Canon Marketing (Philippines) Inc. and Rosario B. Cajucom-Bradbury, Managing Director, SGS Philippines Inc. during the recent handover of ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System Certification.

Canon
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10
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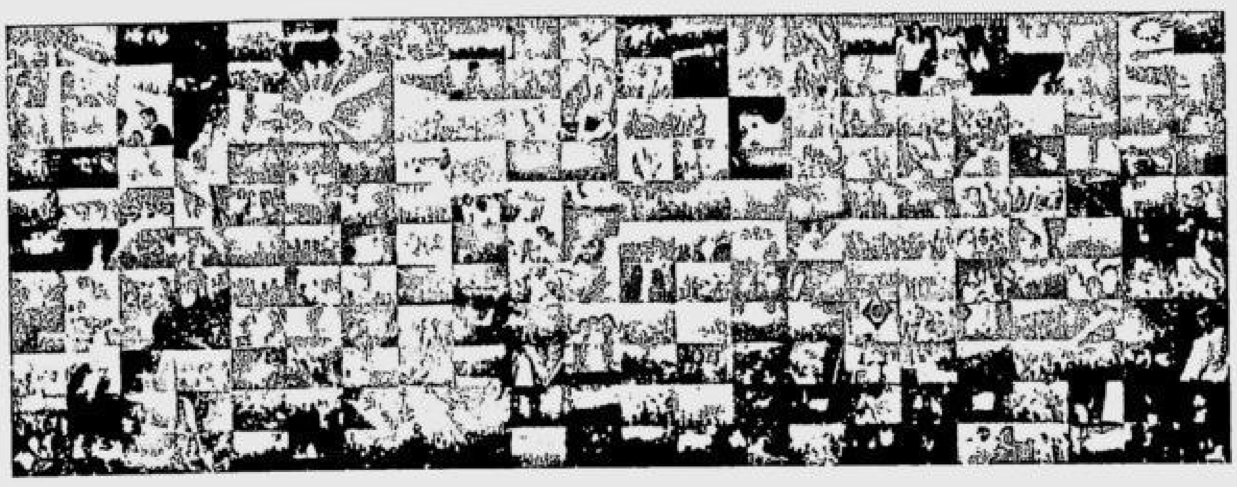
Canon Image Nation



Canon Image Nation

PERFECT 10

APPRECIATION NIGHT FOR DEALERS AND BUSINESS PARTNERS

A decade of delight deserves more than just a birthday bash. That's why we're holding parties, galas, and other get-togethers all year round. And one of the biggest will be the PERFECT 10 appreciation night for dealers and business partners. It will be an evening of wining and dining. Of live music and entertainment. And of thanks, thanks, and more thanks. All for what's simply been a perfect partnership.

Canon Image Nation

SUMMER

Summer signals the beginning of beach trips, bikini bodies and a hoard of vacation images. Come celebrate Image Nation Summer with Canon! Get your shades and smiles ready for special promotions to better equip you on your next adventure. Mall roadshows for those seeking refuge in the cool indoors. And the Summer Party Fever at Boracay for more sun-loving excitement! You can receive free memory cards, waterproof neck wallets, scrapbooking kits, Pizza Hut solo pizzas or tickets to Phuket Thailand. So get ready to shoot and share the sun and surf with Canon digital imaging products!

Canon Image Nation

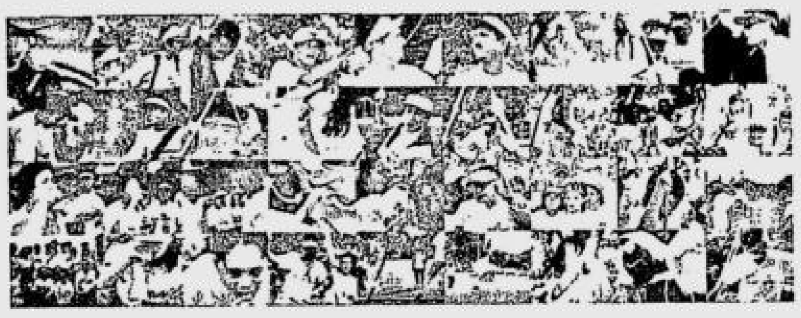
DELIGHTFUL DESTINATIONS RAFFLE

Along with the feelings of gratitude and delight, we've also been touched by the spirit of giving. With the Image Nation DELIGHTFUL DESTINATIONS raffle, we're giving away brand new Canon cameras, printers, photo printers, DVD video cams, multi-functional printers and other exciting prizes each month! And you can also win any of the 10 trips we are giving away to 10 of the most photographed Asian destinations. This is the thanks you get from being a proud Canon customer.

Canon Image Nation

ACADEMY

Achieving success is simply a dream without the proper techniques and tools. Make the vision a reality with Canon Image Nation Academy. We'll be providing you with all the skills and gear you need to become more creative and efficient. Watch out for the best digital imaging products, special promotions, and event activities that will help you realize your dreams.



Canon Image Nation

CANON PHOTO MARATHON

Anyone who loves taking pictures—that is, everyone—is invited to the Canon Photo Marathon 2007. We're hitting the road to capture the sights, and shooting away at every stop. The trigger-happy winner will represent the Philippines in a regional activity. A once in a lifetime experience for the trigger-happy.

Canon Image Nation

CANON SERVICE DELIGHTS

Now if all you simply want is a service center that's closer to home, we're giving you that too. We're opening fully-operational service centers in Mandaluyong, Cebu and Davao, as well as quick repair centers and drop-off points across Metro Manila. And even at our service centers, we'll be holding pick-a-prize raffle countdowns where you can win even more Canon products.

Canon Image Nation

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PROMOS

In celebration of our 10th anniversary, we're giving a 10% discount on iR3530 Digital copiers, with no downpayment and at a 0% interest installment plan for 10 months. For every unit purchased, customers have the option to rent another Digital Copier (iR5000 with finisher) at no additional investment cost.

Not to mention free imageWARE Document Manager Software when you go from paper to digital with the Canon Archiving System (iR2230 Digital Copier and DR1210C High Speed Scanner). This package is also offered at a 10% discount, 0% interest installment plan for 10 months, with no downpayment required.

Canon Image Nation

SMILE 7107

With the birth of a new nation, we want to see the Philippines through fresh eyes. We want to see a new picture—to see new pictures—of the country. And we're holding the SMILE 7107 photo contest to do just that. We're calling on all Canon digital camera owners to send us their freshest takes on the Philippines, and show all the reasons Filipinos are an irrepressibly joyful people, in a new light. Let's show everyone just why the Filipino never stops smiling.

Canon Image Nation

IMAGE EXPO 2007

Learn more about images, imaging, and imaging devices at the two-day IMAGE EXPO 2007. There'll be mini-exhibits and demonstrations, a massive trade fair, and then the event highlight: a historical showcase of vintage Canon products through the years. Day one will be for business partners and members of the press, while the second day will be devoted to the public. Whether you're a dealer, enthusiast, or a student, there's no better place to hone your craft, strike a deal, sample Canon products, and meet the rest of the Image Nation community.